



THE GUARDIAN

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Employers agree to press for cash increase

Teachers win new pay talks

By Andrew Monteur, Education Staff

The employers made important concessions yesterday to break the deadlock in the teachers' pay dispute, agreeing that the Government must be pressed for extra money to settle the row.

The management panel also agreed to renew talks with the unions in the full Burnham pay negotiating committee. A meeting will take place in the near future.

The employers will seek informal talks with the unions, under an independent chairman, to discuss terms.

The employers' side gave ground at its two-and-a-half-hour meeting yesterday, which clearly pleased the Labour-dominated metropolitan authorities, who appeared to have won support for their attempt to find a solution to the dispute.

They argued that an olive branch should be offered to the teaching unions, who resolve earlier this week that a settlement would depend on the management agreeing to reconvene Burnham with a view to negotiating on an improved pay offer.

The moves by management come at a time when the government is known to be under pressure from its own backbenches to resolve the dispute.

cally sensitive dispute. It has been made clear to Mrs Thatcher that they would like to see an improved pay offer — possibly as high as 6 per cent — coupled with a promise of a full-scale inquiry into the future of the discredited Burnham pay-fixing system.

After yesterday's meeting, Mr Philip Merridale, Conservative leader of the management panel, issued a unanimously agreed statement. It pointedly made no mention of the route to a settlement hitherto advanced by Mr Merridale: salary structure talks, arbitration, or conciliation through Acas.

The statement said: "The management panel acknowledges that the only arena in which the present dispute can be resolved is the Burnham committee, and the management panel therefore agrees that it would be appropriate for a full meeting of the Burnham committee to be convened in the near future."

It added that an urgent meeting would be sought with teacher representatives to discuss the terms on which the Burnham meeting can be arranged, in order that it be given every chance of success.

The employers also stated that "additional concessions" would be made to the teachers.

be required from Government and the talks to be held between their representatives and those of the teachers' panel should include discussion about the basis upon which such additional resources can be sought from the Secretary of State.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, later welcomed the management move to call a Burnham committee meeting. But he added that the teachers had made it clear that the basis of any discussions should be a willingness by the employers to make an improved offer.

"I trust that is what the employers intend, but since that is not made clear, my panel will meet on Tuesday to consider what the employers have said," he said.

The teachers' dispute, now entering its second term, has caused disruption for thousands of pupils in England and Wales.

They have missed lessons and days at school because of selective strikes and a withdrawal of goodwill by members of two unions who have refused to cover for absent staff.

The teachers are seeking an all-round increase of at least £1,200, which amounts to nearly 12½ per cent. They have rejected a 4.5 per cent and a 6 per cent offer.



MARATHON MEMORIES: Dawit Bikila and his sister Tsige go on a springtime jog, remembering their father Adeb, who was the first man to win two Olympic marathon titles.

H-bomb sailor's 'natural death'

By Graham Smith

A JURY yesterday returned a verdict of death by natural causes in the case of a sailor who died after being exposed to a hydrogen bomb test.

The sailor, who was a member of the crew of the HMS Warrior, died in 1967 after being exposed to a hydrogen bomb test in the South Pacific.

The jury found that the sailor's death was a "natural death" and that there was no evidence of foul play.

Bank rates fall as inflation rises

By Christopher Huhne and Hamish McRae

The pound strengthened and interest rates edged down yesterday, following the announcement of a sharp rise in inflation to 8.1 per cent in March, its highest level since the end of 1982.

The rise in inflation was caused by a sharp increase in the price of food, which rose by 1.1 per cent in March.

The Treasury forecast in last month's budget that the inflation rate would be "about 6 per cent" in the second quarter, but officials said yesterday that the rise was a bit high and a bit early.

rates had fallen 1.5 points since last month's budget, and I would expect further cuts in the course of the year."

Mr Lawson came under sharp attack from Opposition spokesmen. Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's shadow chancellor, said low inflation was the Government's one justification for the "scissors" of 4 million.

He said that the Government had failed to control inflation and that the rate of interest should be raised to 10 per cent.

Runners depleted

By John Rodda

THE ORGANISERS of the Mars London marathon tomorrow fear that bad weather and illness in the key months of preparation could have heavily reduced their entry. Of the 22,000 entries accepted by the organisers, only 10,000 had registered as definite runners at the Festival Hall last night.

Mr Rodda, the race director, said the figure of registrations was well below that of previous years.

He said: "There could be several reasons: the weather in February and March interfered with training because it was so wet and cold and many people may not be fit enough for the test. In addition, the recent influenza outbreak may also be having an effect."

Homeland blacks may still be SA citizens

From Patrick Lawrence in Johannesburg

President Botha hinted yesterday that he may be about to abandon one of the pillars of "grand apartheid" by allowing "citizens" of the so-called independent black homelands to retain their South African citizenship.

The citizenship issue is crucial to the Republic's denationalisation policy, under which nearly half the black population of 24 million have already been stripped of South African citizenship with the granting of purported independence to four of the 10 homelands.

Under the old Verwoerdian apartheid master plan, "white" South Africa was to be stripped of its black population automatically conferring on them the citizenship of their new homelands when these were granted independence.

And, although many aspects of apartheid have been watered down since the death of Dr Verwoerd, the denationalisation policy has proceeded inexorably.

It is central to the country's pass-law system, which is based on the principle that homeland citizens are "foreigners" who enjoy no rights of residence or employment in "white" South Africa — even though they may never have visited the homeland allocated to them. As foreigners they enjoy only its privileges which are set out in the pass books and stringently controlled.

President Botha's statement came during an address in which he invited opposition parties to serve on the special committee investigating how best to accommodate politically black living outside their designated homeland.

He also announced that blacks are to be allowed to own freehold property outside the tribal homelands.

Joyce Harris, the vice-president of the Black Sash civil rights group, said she welcomed the move.

Next week

Monday

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

What made Elsie Powell take up the issue of unborn children? Polly Toynbee went to see him to find out.

NOT JUST A GULAG

Moscow correspondent Martin Walker begins a series of reports from Siberia.

Tuesday

ELECTION ARITHMETIC

When voters in the shires go to the polls on May 2, there is one area where their votes can have a crucial impact: education. Maureen O'Connor examines the figures.

Wednesday

LAW ABIDING

The face of feminism in the Muslim world: three women describe how they came to terms with Islamic law.

ILL AT EASE

Do we need sickness to make us whole? Society Tomorrow reflects on the implications of illness.

Thursday

MISSTRESSMIND

Christopher Driver dips into Margaret Drabble's edition of the Oxford Companion to Literature.

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Reagan plans fail to silence critics

From Anna Tugend in Bonn

President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl will be seen in Washington on Monday, the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, in a joint commemoration at the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on May 5, the West German Government said last night.

The ceremony was agreed after protests by Jewish and veterans' organisations in America at President Reagan's plan to lay a wreath at a German war cemetery in Bitburg during his visit next month.

Congressional Medal of Honor to the chest of Mr Wiesel, who is chairman of the American Holocaust Memorial Commission. Wiesel, 80, and one of the most prominent witnesses on the Jewish experience in the death camps.

Mr Wiesel said: "I will, as often as I can, remind the world of the Holocaust. I will express that gratitude."

He then told the assembled group, including the President of the "Gommes" over Bitburg, pointing out that such "symbols" as visiting a cemetery where the SS were buried were important to Jews.

The choice of Bitburg, suggested by Chancellor Kohl, caused international outrage, as 47 members of the Waffen-SS are among more than 2,000 German soldiers buried there.

But the signs were yesterday that the furor over the cemetery visit will not die down as a result of the concentration camp decision, which has left the impression that a war cemetery has been traded off against a concentration camp.

British troops liberated the camp near Bitburg on April 15, 1945. More than 100,000 victims perished there.

The uproar over President Reagan's bungled efforts at reconciliation continued yesterday, as he continued the odyssey of his visit to the Holocaust. Jewish critics who, in an emotional speech, implored him to cancel the visit to Bitburg.

This has produced an outcry even more severe than the original announcement of a week ago of his intention to lay a wreath at Bitburg. Rabbi Alexander Schneider, the president of the Union of Jewish Congresses, said: "To equate the fate of members of the German army bent on world conquest with that of 6 million Jewish civilians, including one million innocent children, is a distortion of history, a perversion of language, and a painful offence to the Jewish community."

Mr Henry Seigman, the executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said that Mr Reagan's remarks had added insult to injury. He urged Mr Reagan to undo "a terrible mistake."

The White House is now clearly hoping that a formal announcement to visit Bergen-Belsen, to balance the Bitburg trip, will cool the ugly mood as expressed in statements, not only from Jewish organisations but from American ex-servicemen's groups.

The West German newspaper, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, said the mission was a "verdict of unlawful killing."

A two-day hearing at Potsdam was told that Mr Kenneth Measures, of Helston, Cornwall, died in December, 1983, at the age of 54 from a rare type of lung cancer which spread throughout his body within months.

In 1957 Mr Measures was a chief petty officer aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Warrior. His duties included the decontamination of hulls, which were covered in radioactive particles found in Mr Measures' body were similar to those he would have expected to find in anyone.

Dr Keeling, a surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital, said: "The lung cancer had earlier been described as a test case by Mr Ken McNally, chairman of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association, which is campaigning for recognition of their compensation claims. He said he was bitterly disappointed by the jury's decision."

Yesterday the inquest was told by a specialist surgeon in nuclear medicine, Dr David Keeling, that he could find no significant traces of plutonium in the samples removed from the dead sailor's body. Traces of radioactive particles found in Mr Measures' body were similar to those he would have expected to find in anyone.

Dr Keeling, a surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital, said: "The lung cancer had earlier been described as a test case by Mr Ken McNally, chairman of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association, which is campaigning for recognition of their compensation claims. He said he was bitterly disappointed by the jury's decision."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shock tactics

CHELSEA Football Club will use a tactic of sending out a crowd of 100,000 to Tottenham next week, Back page.

Welsh jobs go

COURTAULDS is closing two factories in North Wales, the cost of more than 1,100 jobs. Page 18.

China pledge

CHINA is to cut its conventional forces by one million men in the next year, the Chinese Communist Party general secretary has said in New Zealand. Page 6.

End of an era

THE sale of the Liberal Club heralds a new age for gentlemen. Page 2.

Cleared of murder

A MAN who killed a black ticket inspector with an iron stake was cleared of murder yesterday and jailed for nine years for manslaughter. Page 2.

Postal talks

ATTEMPTS were being made last night to arrange talks over the dispute at Post Office centres. Back page.

Drugs bill

DEALERS trafficking in hard drugs face life imprisonment under a private members' bill approved yesterday. Page 2.

Libel gibe

A REPORT for Labour's national executive about Conservative Labour Party has been called libellous by a leftwinger. Page 2.

The weather

COLD with showers. Details, back page.

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BRYMON

Nellist scorns NEC report on his electioneering



David Nellist and Alan Travis report the latest stage of a row which has been smouldering since the general election.

Mr Dave Nellist, the hard left Labour MP for Coventry South-East, yesterday issued a pre-emptive strike against a report to be considered by the

Mr Dave Nellist: rebuked by his party leader

party's national executive committee next week on the conduct of the constituency party's campaign at the last general election.

Mr Nellist denounced the report as "scurrilous". He said it was "full of inaccuracies, libellous, and an attempt to denigrate Coventry SE Labour Party, and its MP."

Mr Nellist received an implied rebuke yesterday from his party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock. Mr Kinnock said that the call for a one-day student

strike next Thursday, with which Mr Nellist and the Militant MP for Liverpool, Broadgreen, Mr Terry Fields, have been closely associated, was not likely to serve the interests of young people in Britain.

The report to the NEC was prepared by a team consisting of Mr Ken Carr of the AUEW and Mrs Ann Davis, who are on the right of the Labour executive, and the party's national agent, Mr David Hughes.

Mr Nellist said that the report was "a bitter insult to the conduct of the election campaign within the local party. There were complaints during the campaign that local members were being shut out of the action in favour of members of the Militant Tendency, said to have been imported by Mr Nellist."

Some members said they had effectively been barred from the campaign. Others complained that the main service required from them seemed to be the accommodation of imported members of the Young Socialists.

In July 1983 the general committee of the local party passed a resolution deploring the way the election campaign had been run and the deliberate exclusion from it of local members. It called for the resignation of the election agent, Mr Tom Smith, and for an apology from Mr Nellist.

But at the same time it adopted a resolution submitted by three ward parties which praised the dynamism of the campaign and the fact that 60 new members had been recruited.

The report which comes before the NEC on Wednesday is expected to criticise the conduct of the campaign on two main grounds. One is the exclusion of members. The other deals with some of the campaign literature, which is said to have been more concerned with advancing the policies of militant than those of the Labour Party.

The report is said to amount to an admonishment rather than censure and not to recommend that any heads should roll.

Kinnock promises to expand welfare provision

By Dennis Johnson

"Labour would 'substantially and consistently' increase spending on health and community care services," Mr Neil Kinnock said yesterday when he introduced the party's new charter for Community City in advance of the May county council elections.

He would not be drawn on cost but pointed out that since the county budgets of 1980-81 the Government has made cuts in the rate support grant of £2,000 million.

"Picking figures out of the air now and trying to cost what would have to be undertaken to bring about what would be recognised as a standard of provision would not be of any assistance," Mr Kinnock said.

Mr Kinnock, the seat of Avon County Council, the only Labour-held county in the south of England, said he would launch the charter there because of what Avon has achieved in social services over the past four years in spite of the policy. As a shield against the effects of mean and clumsy restrictions the county had been a model.

The Labour leader quoted the Association of Directors of Social Services as reporting that resources were now 10 per cent below the minimum needed to maintain care for the elderly, the handicapped, and children.

The charter says that the party would encourage new forms of joint planning and action. Consultative committees representing health, local authorities, and voluntary bodies would draw up local plans.

'Wastage' charge over Jenkin's rates strategy

By John Carvel, Government Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, is bracing himself for a further roasting over the Government's system of distributing £5 billion in grants to local authorities after the publication next Tuesday of a critical report by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, Sir Gordon Downey.

Sir Gordon will tell the Commons' Public Accounts Committee that the present rate support grant system causes considerable financial waste.

His report follows a year-long investigation by the National Audit Office and it is coincidental that it will be published shortly before the county council elections on May 2. Its findings are likely, however, to provide further ammunition for parties opposing the Tories in the last week of the campaign.

It is understood that the Public Accounts Committee intends to hold hearings on the report at which Department of the Environment officials will be interrogated.

Sir Gordon's study follows a similar investigation by the Audit Commission, a separate government-appointed body of local authority politicians, experts and businessmen. This concluded last August that the

unpredictable complexity of the block grant system was to blame for adding £1.2 billion to rate bills over the last three years.

The Audit Commission said that block grant was unfair, ineffective, and discouraged proper advance planning by councils. It recommended the speedy abolition of spending targets and penalties for councils which overrode them. The commission's chief executive, Mr John Banham, complained that top local authority managers were being distracted from their important strategic work while they coped with the complexities of the grant system.

"Their eye is being taken off the ball. Clearly, something must be done about it," he said. Sir Gordon is not expected to match the racy style of Mr Banham's Audit Commission report or to offer precise estimates of the waste caused by the grants system. He is understood, however, to agree with Mr Banham's conclusion that the Government should be made aware of the unintended side-effects of its efforts to use the grant system to control local authority behaviour.

It is not clear whether the Public Accounts Committee will call Mr Banham to give evidence at its hearings or whether it will limit itself to Sir Gordon's report.

Job cuts report rejected by Ford

By John Arhill, Labour Correspondent

The Ford motor company yesterday denied a report that it plans to dismiss the sewing machinists at Dagenham and Halewood awaiting an arbitration award on their claim for equal pay status with men workers after a strike last year.

It also denied union claims that it will shortly announce closure of its research site in Germany, leading to the concentration of product development work at Dutton in Essex.

A series of other claims, illustrating if nothing else the twofold state of the workforce in the currently troubled motor industry, was also discounted.

A spokesman said that a newspaper report of a secret company document recommending that the machinists' jobs be phased out by 1989 probably referred to a feasibility study prepared last August before the strike. It would be "misleading to the point of being wrong" to call it a plan.

He said it dealt with a number of Ford's options if it were to go ahead with proposals for a new design of seat, involving less sewing. A plant existed any longer to manufacture the interior styling said by union sources to be plastic without cloth trim. Details of the design "would come under the category of competitive information which I would not be able to discuss," said the spokesman.

"It never was any sort of plan, it clearly has no connection with the machinists' strike, and it is not at the moment under active consideration. That does not mean that it has gone away for ever or that it would ultimately be adopted."

He also rejected union claims that a Fiesta replacement code-named BE13 would be fitted with a Fiat-made 1 litre engine instead of the Ford engines now built at Bridgend in South Wales and on the Continent. There is no plan to produce a Fiesta replacement for a very long time yet and equally, therefore, no plan at the moment to put anyone else's engine in it," he said.

Ford admits that it is involved in talks with Fiat and other major manufacturers but denies recent reports from Germany that a merger with the Italian company is imminent.

On company plans for Ford of Europe, the spokesman ruled out reports of a threat to the plant at Merkenich, near Cologne. Reduced costs and increased efficiency at all European plants were desirable but a statement to the German workforce said that the "importance of Dutton and its facilities will continue to be recognised," he said.

According to unions, the company will announce on Monday the closure of Merkenich with the loss of 960 jobs of a total of 3,600 in product development work around Europe. After meeting management early this week, the plant's works council told members that the company planned to concentrate all development work in England and that the council required a statement — legally binding under German labour law — on Merkenich's future.

Mr John Chownat, Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs divisional officer covering Dutton, said last night that staff there and Merkenich were convinced that the German plant would close by the spring of next year.

"If this is the way it is going, we are relieved for Dutton but worried that the knife is coming closer because it is a major cutback for Ford of Europe," he said.

Speaking at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, Mr Powell took as his text Mr Edward Heath's famous question at the February 1974 general election: "Who governs Britain?"

He described Yes, Minister as "a fair working model of the normal relationship between ministers and civil servants, which can safely be used as an introduction to the methods and motivation of those who assist political ministers in the formulation and execution of policy."

The Civil and Foreign Services, permanent where elected governments were transient, were indispensable to government in Britain.



MOORING DRESS — Three MPs, Conservative Virginia Bottomley, Liberal Simon Hughes and Labour's Chris Smith (right) help to carry a tree along the South Bank opposite Westminster in a protest against acid rain pollution. The tree, representing the millions dying from acid rain in Europe, was carried to a mock funeral service in the demonstration organised by Friends of the Earth.

Murder case jury accused of racism

The son of a black British Rail ticket collector killed after a fracas involving five white youths accused of a Bailey jury and judge of racism yesterday after a murder verdict had been rejected.

Bernard Burns, aged 24, shouted threats at the defendant James Melloy, aged 20, who was found not guilty of murder but guilty of manslaughter. He was jailed for nine years.

When Judge Limbery ordered his removal, Mr Burns shouted: "That is because they (the jury) are all white like you."

The judge described the case as one of the most serious types of manslaughter and said that there was no vestige of excuse for Melloy's behaviour.

Mr Peter Burns, aged 59, who was born in Martinique, was on duty alone at Seven Kings station, Essex, when he was racially taunted by five white youths including Melloy. When Mr Burns told the youths — who had all been drinking — to leave him alone they half-dragged him and half-carried him to his ticket kiosk and threw him on the floor.

Melloy said that he was leaving the station when Mr Burns, of Ilford, Essex, hit him on the head with a hand shovel, drawing blood.

Witnesses said that Melloy ran out of the station in a blind rage, wrenched a 5ft-long metal spike from the ground, and charged back into the station, holding the spike like a lance or bayonet.

The spike went into Mr



James Melloy... history of violence

Burns' left eye and through his brain.

Melloy had previous convictions for fighting, firing an air rifle into a crowded pub, and smashing a beer glass into a man's face in an unprovoked attack. He was dishonourably discharged from the Royal Artillery after four years' service because he had become a menace with his fighting and drinking. He had been unemployed since 1981.

Melloy, of Laurence Avenue, Manor Park, east London, claimed that he believed Mr Burns was going to hit him again with the shovel. He thought the spike had been used by the shovel and hit Mr Burns on the head.

Outside the court Mr Bernard Burns said that racial feelings had played a big part in his father's death. "If my father was white this wouldn't have happened."

Seat belt accident 'toll'

By Geoff Andrews

Compulsory seat belts have cut deaths and serious injuries to front seat car occupants by 19 per cent, but casualties among rear seat passengers and pedestrians have increased substantially, the latest road accident figures show.

The figures for 1984 are bound to fuel the long-running dispute about the overall benefits of the seat belt law. They

show that compared to 1983 the year before seat belt wearing became compulsory, rear seat fatalities and injuries rose by 7 per cent and those among pedestrians by 8 per cent.

The Department of Transport has recently set up a study of the effects of the new law because of the controversy which suggests that a driver wearing a seat belt may take more risks because of the extra security it gives.

BR reward to catch vandals

British Rail is offering a £500 reward to help to catch vandals who started a fire causing "hundreds of thousands of pounds" of damage at a Glasgow rail depot early yesterday.

A buffet car was destroyed and 10 carriages were damaged, police said. The depot, at Polmadie, is used as overnight "parking" for coaches and

Powell hails Yes, Minister as the true face of government

By David McKie

Speaking at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, Mr Powell took as his text Mr Edward Heath's famous question at the February 1974 general election: "Who governs Britain?"

He described Yes, Minister as "a fair working model of the normal relationship between ministers and civil servants, which can safely be used as an introduction to the methods and motivation of those who assist political ministers in the formulation and execution of policy."

The Civil and Foreign Services, permanent where elected governments were transient, were indispensable to government in Britain.

It was in the nature of things that such services would have political perceptions and purposes of their own, which they would inevitably seek to protect against the vagaries of political change and ministerial idiosyncrasy — even if that might occasionally involve concealing or deceiving those they were nominally bound to obey.

The former diplomat, Sir Nicholas Henderson, had written that any future government adopting an extremely radical policy, such as breaking with the EEC or Nato, would put severe strains on official Foreign Office loyalty.

His former colleague, Sir Anthony Parsons, had gone

further, saying that if the broad bipartisanship of 40 years broke down in this way many in the higher reaches of the Foreign Office would find the new policies impossible to implement, so driving ministers to recruit political loyalists to carry out their will.

Sir Anthony's answer to the question: "Who governs Britain?" was in effect the Civil and Foreign Services. Bipartisanship which does not "break down" is the pursuit by successive governments of policies enforced by the implicit ultimate threat of official rebellion," Mr Powell said.

When the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, swung his party

back to bipartisanship over the EEC or Nato it was because he recognised that governments could not command what the permanent services would not perform.

But the two policies cited by Sir Nicholas — commitment to the EEC and Nato — derived from a higher and more imperative notion: the perception that Britain's advantages and safety lay in conformity with the views and will of the United States. So another answer to the question: "Who governs Britain?" might be: "The conviction of American pre-eminence."

In US eyes, the EEC had always been the political coup-

terpart and buttress of Nato. That was why the Americans had put pressure on Britain to join.

The Prime Minister knew what the domestic political rewards would be for reasserting Britain's economic and political independence. But she faced not just the permanent services' veto on the breakdown of bipartisanship but the threatened consequence of a breakdown deemed more disastrous — of the Consensus with the US.

The public services could effectively exploit that kind of external commitment to help them to frustrate the policy of an elected government.

It has worked through only 350 suppliers so far and 22 firms, including Rowntree, Mackintosh, Mann-Egerton and Maschin-Corpat, have decided not to re-apply to go on the council's list. No firms have been rejected.

Many other councils have refused to put building firms on their list of approved contractors if they use "lump labour" or if they refuse to grant negotiating rights to trade unions. These conditions would be declared void by the proposed bill, as would any bans on companies trading in South Africa.

Sale of solvents to young glue-sniffers will be banned

MPs approve life sentences for cocaine and heroin dealers

By Alan Travis

The maximum sentence for drug dealers who traffic in heroin or cocaine is to be increased from 14 years to life imprisonment under a private member's bill approved by the Commons yesterday.

Mr. David Mellor, the Home Office minister, told MPs that the bill would allow a judge to impose a life sentence on a dealer if he or she was found guilty of supplying a large quantity of drugs to a young person under 18.

Mr. Mellor said the bill would also allow a judge to impose a life sentence on a dealer if he or she was found guilty of supplying a large quantity of drugs to a young person under 18.

Some pushers regarded this as a worthwhile investment if they had £1 million in cash and could get it back in a few years.

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From smokeroom to the jacuzzi...

AN £8.5 million deal between the National Liberal Club and the Thistle Hotel Chain yesterday signalled the end of the era of the gentlemen's residential club and heralded the new age of the jacuzzi, the trim gym, and the businessman's message.

The Crown lease of the club, founded by Gladstone in 1882, is being taken over for £1.5 million by Thistle Hotels, owned by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries which last year, contributed to one political party, £10,000.

As well as letting the club's 140 bedrooms to holidaymakers, the new owners have plans to turn its basement into a leisure club, complete with swimming pool and a fitness centre.

The National Liberal Club, with its fine marble staircase, smoking room, and huge collection of "Gladstoniana" from his era to the original Gladstone bag - will go on as before.

Small sacrifices will have to be made for having this £8.5 million for generally improving facilities.

The signs were yesterday that even the older members were ready for change. The chairman, Sir Leonard

"The Club which old Jolyon entered on the stroke of seven was one of those political institutions of the upper middle class which had seen better days. In spite of being talked about, perhaps in consequence of being talked about, it betrays a disappointing vitality." Aileen Ballantine follows Galsworthy's hero to the National Liberal Club, which is again being talked about...

Smith, proudly displayed the high-ceilinged smoking room with its red leather armchairs and open fireplaces, but confessed: "I think we'll have to rename it. No one smokes any more."

Whether members will approve of another possible development - the opening up of the planned heads club to overworked, overweight city workers - remains to be seen.

Jolyon Forsythe would certainly not have approved. "He was too old to be a Liberal," Galsworthy writes in *The Man of Property*, "he naturally despised the club that did take him. The members were a poor lot, many of them in the city - stock brokers, solicitors, auctioneers, what not."

● Right: The National Liberal Club today

and the Victoria Embankment and move two floors. But there will be compensations. For an 850-year membership - which has even attracted some prominent members of the SDP - the Liberal in London from the shires on a spot of business will still be able to take a room at his club.

Instead of sleeping in a dark room with flower-embroidered carpets, peeling paint and shared 1950s bathrooms, he will receive a discount for a stay in the same place above the club but in a bed owned by Thistle.

The chain has earmarked £5 million for refurbishing the bedrooms and a further £2.5 million for generally improving facilities.

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Hard-line council urges Joseph to make peace with teachers as action continues

By Andrew Mangan

Tory-controlled Solihull, which has taken the hardest line with teachers over their campaign of disruption in schools, has now urged Sir Keith Joseph to make an award.

Nine schools in Solihull were named yesterday as targets for the newly intensified round of strike action called by the National Union of Teachers.

Another 17 schools in Birmingham will also be hit next week. Thousands of children face the prospect of two days a week of schooling as the new campaign begins, with the full list of target schools due to be released on Monday.

Solihull, which believes that it has been singled out for a vindictive political campaign since it obtained High Court injunctions against two unions in February, has asked the Education Secretary to step in with an initiative to resolve the pay dispute.

Mr. Geoffrey Wright, the borough's education chairman, said yesterday: "If the teachers are offered something around 5 per cent they would take it, provided there was some indication that there is a future strategy behind it."

Mr. Wright was referring to a long-term strategy involving salary structure reform which most teachers unions favour.

"I do think the Secretary of State has been dragging his feet somewhat," he said. "It is not like the coal strike. Ultimately coal is recoverable but the education of children is not."

The teachers' unions have rejected a 4 per cent and the employers' offer of arbitration. They seek nearly 12.5 per cent as a step towards restoring salary levels set in 1974.

Sir Keith yesterday made it clear that he is looking for "positive movement" by the teachers to settle the dispute.

The impression we have is that widespread damage is being done to children's education, particularly in some of the cities. I cannot see that this is in the teachers' interests," he said during a visit to South Wales.

The unions were refusing all the options: the pay offer, arbitration and invitations to discuss proposals on structure and appraisal.

But union leaders visited the Department of Education on Monday for talks originally scheduled to be with Sir Keith.

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'Scurrilous lampoon poet' gets £500 fine

By Martin Argles

A ST HELENS Labour Party official, Trevor Ennis, was yesterday fined £500 for a lampoon poem about the town's phantom poet and told to seek medical help to overcome his sexual problems.

Judge William Wickham told Mr. Ennis at Liverpool Crown Court: "You are a scurrilous lampoon poet and told to seek medical help to overcome his sexual problems."

Mr. Ennis, aged 30, collapsed in the dock as the judge made his comments. He was found guilty after a week-long trial on two charges of sending a package containing indecent written material.

He was fined £500, with £300 costs and given a three-month prison sentence for each offence, suspended for two years.

The court heard how Ennis had lampooned political figures in St Helens, Merseyside.

Among the victims in the scurrilous pamphlets he produced under the name of "The Phantom Poet" were Mr. Gerry Birmingham, MP for St Helens South and former Labour leader of St Helens Council, Mr. Gerry Baxter.

Mr. Ennis, vice-chairman of St Helens South Labour Party, told police: "I might have gone too far but when you see people setting themselves up, they are ready for ridiculing. I turned my attention to the Labour Party because that was becoming a bit of a joke."

He told how he decided to write about Mr. Birmingham. He said: "I was in the constituency Labour Party meeting when he stood up to give his side of the story. I just didn't believe what he was saying so I decided to make a point about that."

When police searched his home a pamphlet on how to produce leaflets was found, together with draft poetry inside a cookery book. Mr. Ennis, of Epping Avenue, St Helens, claimed that he wrote them to show how easy it would be for the phantom to construct his poems. He alleged that police had put pressure on him to confess.

The judge told Mr. Ennis: "This scurrilous rubbish you sent through the post was offensive to certain people. Goodness knows who had the opportunity to pick up these publications and read them."

Patrick Carolan, aged 27, unemployed of Beaumont Mansions, Queensway, Puddingstone, is charged with unlawfully killing Ian Anderson on or before February 7 at another flat in Queensway.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Director of BAe gets top arms job

MR Colin Chandler, a marketing director of British Aerospace, has been appointed Whitehall's chief arms salesman, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

Mr. Chandler, who is 45, will be seconded for up to three years and will continue to receive his salary from British Aerospace. The Government will reimburse the company £29,500 a year, plus £7,500 in pension contributions.

Mr. Chandler's secondment to the post, officially called Head of Defence Sales, was approved by the Civil Service Commissioners, unlike the controversial appointment of Mr. Peter Seaven, a former defence contractor, to head the arms procurement programme. Mr. Chandler will take over from Sir James Blyth.

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Synod gets Cardinal's blessing

By Martin Argles

Cardinal Basil Hume yesterday answered criticisms that the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops was an attempt by Pope John Paul II to reverse the reforms introduced by the Second Vatican Council 20 years ago.

The synod which will take place in Rome at the end of the year is expected to be "modest in aim, limited in achievement and interim in character," said Cardinal Hume, president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

It would be wrong to think of the synod as a major council.

Israelis to ignore Unifil presence

Aviv: The Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday said that Israel will establish a security zone ranging from three to five miles in the Lebanon when it withdraws its forces to the international border.

In a radio interview, he said that Israel would continue to operate in this zone "if this becomes necessary".

Mr Rabin said Unifil, the United Nations force in south Lebanon, played "a fairly negative role as far as Israel's security was concerned, and it is better off without it in the area. However, we have decided that there is no hope of US support for means to band Unifil."

Israel did not want to keep forces stationed in Lebanon, Mr Rabin said, but it did not want to bring reprisals by "air and land."

The Israeli Cabinet is due to discuss the final phase of the withdrawal from Lebanon at a weekly meeting on Sunday.

A Damascus meeting yesterday, the Syrian Prime Minister, Mr Hafez Assad, conferred with Syrian President, Mr Hafez Assad, on Lebanon's latest political crisis sparked by factional fighting in west Beirut.

Mr Assad, the Syrian Vice-President, Mr Abdel-Halim al-Adnan, and Mr Karami discussed the crisis at a three-day meeting, the official Syrian news agency Sana reported.

Sana said that Mr Assad declined Syria's keenness to maintain security and neutrality for all Lebanese so to strengthen the national front in the face of Israeli aims at dismembering Lebanon.

A Syria supports the Shi'ite militia and Druze militia which crushed Sunni Muslim militia and Palestinians in a four-hour gunbattle in west Beirut. Security forces said 96 people were killed and about 200 wounded.

The battles prompted Mr Assad to resign on Wednesday, saying his "National Front" Government of "united Lebanon" had been "shattered by the fighting between brothers". He agreed to head an interim cabinet.

Battles flared yesterday in a suburb of the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon where people have been killed.

Thursday, security forces said Lebanese army units on Mar Elias hill overlooking the city and an army army barracks came under concentrated shell fire from Christian militiamen to the east.

In all, 108 people have been killed, more than 450 wounded and tens of thousands driven from their homes since the fighting began on March 14, the sources said.

A senior Lebanese official of the American University of Beirut, Mr George Sayegh, was killed in a helicopter crash on Thursday, university sources said yesterday. — Reuters.

UN report identifies poison gas

New York: Iranian soldiers seized in the Gulf war against Iraq have been attacked with poison gas, a United Nations report said yesterday.

The report, by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, a Spanish Army Colonel, Manuel Dominguez, said no determination was made whether the gas was used by Iranian troops in Iraq or by Iraqi troops in Iran.

When UN officials were studying Col Dominguez's findings, United States intelligence sources said that Iran also appeared to be using poison gas in the conflict.

According to Col Dominguez, toxic chemicals were used against Iranian soldiers in the Gulf war. In addition to Yperite, he said, the chemicals included mustard gas, which has been used in the past.

He reported that he had examined six Iranian patients at London's St John's Hospital and found their wounds were consistent with the effects of toxic chemicals. Col Dominguez said the chemicals were delivered in bombs.

Iran has complained to the UN that Iraq has been using chemical weapons against Iranian troops. Doctors in Europe who have treated Iranian wounded evacuated to hospitals there reported the injured had symptoms consistent with exposure to mustard gas.

Iraq denies it has used poison gas, which has been banned by the Geneva Convention.

According to the Boston Globe, the US intelligence sources said until now they had believed Iranian warnings that Iraq was buying gas and gas weapons were a bluff. The sources said they did not know whether Iraq made gas or whether it was supplied by Libya.

Gorbachev expected, but may not sign treaty personally

Soviet bloc will limit Pact summit to one day

From Helsinki, Finland. The existing treaty, drawn up during the height of the Cold War, expires in mid-May. Although there has been extensive discussion within the Soviet Union and apparently even within the Warsaw Pact, it is unlikely that the new text will be very different.

The most important alteration may be the definition of the Warsaw Pact as a defensive alliance no longer only against a threat from the Federal Republic of Germany, but from the NATO alliance as a whole.

Although the actual date of the summit has not yet been announced, preparations are being made in considerable secrecy, sources say the leaders will arrive on Thursday afternoon. The summit itself is apparently only scheduled to last one day.

The present plan is to make it a "bloc affair" with Western journalists rigorously excluded from all the ceremonies.

The shortness of the summit suggests that the Warsaw Pact leaders may limit themselves to the treaty ceremonies and the publication of a joint declaration on East-West relations and the arms negotiations.

There will be little time for private consultations.

Soviets warn Bonn about Star Wars

From Bonn, Germany. President Reagan's Star Wars plans will destabilise Europe and reduce Moscow's readiness to reduce its missile stockpile, a delegation from the Soviet Union warned in Bonn yesterday.

The Communist Party Central Committee secretary, Mr Mikhail Zimyanin, who led the Soviet delegation on a goodwill mission, also said that West Germany's role in research for the strategic defence initiative would lead Moscow to "treat Bonn how it deserves to be treated."

Mr Zimyanin was flanked by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, who warned: "If the United States carries out its programme for the militarisation of space it could mean that the Soviet Union would not be able to reduce its strategic weapons."

Donald Fields adds from Helsinki: US and Soviet experts have ended four days of talks on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states with a joint statement. The harmonious meeting was the last of five designed to prepare the ground for the third review conference, scheduled for Geneva in August, of the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

The talks went beyond the treaty to emphasise the superpowers' desire to strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Democrats spurn Reagan's compromise proposal for aid to Nicaragua rebels

From Washington. The Democrats, favouring the prospect of defeating President Reagan on the issue of aid for the Nicaraguan rebels in congressional votes next week, are pressing ahead with their own proposals.

In doing so, they are spurning Mr Reagan's fallback position, which drops any attempt to get military aid for the Contras this year. After a day of frantic consultations, Mr Reagan bowed to the inevitable defeat of his original request, and gave his blessing on Thursday to a Republican alternative.

The Democrats for the \$14 million which President Reagan wanted to go towards non-lethal supplies — communications equipment, uniforms, and food — but not guns and ammunition. But the Democrats were having none of this. They unveiled their plan yesterday, which would provide \$5 million for purely humanitarian aid — food, clothing, and medicine — to the Contras and other Nicaraguan exiles, which would be distributed through the Red Cross.

They do not want the CIA to have anything to do with funneling the aid to the Contras. A spokesman for the House Speaker, Mr Tip O'Neill, said: "The CIA is not a humanitarian outfit." He added that the Republican plan amounted to military logistical support.

The Democratic plan would also set aside \$9 million for use by the contra-contras in Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama — to implement a possible peace settlement between the Nicaraguan government and the Contras.

There will be three votes in the House. First will be Mr Reagan's original request, which contained the 60-day deadline during which the money would be used only for humanitarian aid. The period would have ended a ceasefire and talks between the Nicaraguan Government and the Contras. If there was no progress after the 60 days, the money would then be spent on weapons.

That proposal is doomed in the House, although its chances in the Senate are marginally better. The House will then vote on the Democratic and Republican alternatives, and Mr Reagan will have to choose between a compromise to give Mr Reagan some way out of his embarrassment.

The pace of activity on Thursday was fast. Some White House aides were unaware of Mr Reagan's acceptance of the Republican option, but Mr Reagan has made it clear that he is not dropping his request for military aid altogether.

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Prince Charles and Princess Diana arrive at Olbia airport, Sardinia, yesterday at the beginning of a 17-day tour of Italy. They were greeted by the President of the Italian Senate, Francesco Cossiga, and attended a lunch before joining the Royal Yacht Britannia to sail up the coast to La Spezia, near Genoa.

Kremlin pans TV 'slander'

From Campbell, Pennsylvania. THE FRENCH Foreign Ministry rejected yesterday an outspoken Soviet protest against Facing War, a programme shown on the state television's Third Channel on Thursday.

In its note the Soviet Embassy in Paris criticised the French Foreign Ministry for failing to prevent the showing of "this sordid slander" of the Soviet people.

The note went on to remind France of the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitler's fascism and the decisive role of the Soviet Union. France was urged to put an end to misinformation and calumny, and to take a public stand against the authors of anti-Soviet propaganda.

The Soviet ambassador also sent a letter of protest to the head of the Third Channel.

Facing War, which was given exceptional advance publicity, lasted 165 minutes. It was presented by the actor Yves Montand.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency Tass condemned the programme as "a crude anti-Soviet concoction" and described Mr Montand, whose political views have shifted from left to right, as a "renegade".

In its newspaper, the Communist Party called on Thursday for another programme to be presented under the title Facing Peace.

Eurocommunist pioneer dumped Police seek retrial

From Madrid. Spain's veteran Communist leader and architect of the Euro-Communist movement, Santiago Carrillo, was yesterday stripped of his remaining titles and reduced to the ranks of the party which he led for 22 years.

Mr Carrillo, former secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, was expelled from the 104-seat Central Committee along with 14 of his supporters. The party has seen its membership drop from 250,000 four years ago to 68,000 today, and its representation in the Parliament fell from 23 seats to four.

In November, 1981, Mr Carrillo, 70, expelled the young liberal faction of his central committee who demanded more democracy in the PCE. He resigned as secretary-general in 1982 after the party's dismal showing at the polls, but reportedly planned to retain power unofficially when he appointed a former minister, Mr Gerardo Iglesias, aged 39, his successor.

Mr Carrillo's fall was hastened when he refused to break the Iglesias call for a broad front of left-wing parties to fight the 1983 general election.

Mr Carrillo and his supporters denounced the move as a "surrender of the party's independence identity."

He was given until yesterday to resign or fall into line with the leadership or consider himself "auto-excluded."

Early this week, he was sacked as the party spokesman in the Cortes, and yesterday his dismissal from the Central and Executive Committee was approved.

Last weekend, Mr Carrillo assured a rally of 4,000 supporters that he would never change his views and described the Iglesias faction as "a bunch of hypocrites who are acting like an oppressive government. It is as if they are trying to destroy the PCE."

Meanwhile, two of three Basque separatists extradited by France to Spain last September were yesterday acquitted by a Madrid court for lack of evidence. The decision to acquit Jose Manuel Martinez Leizaola and Jose Carlos Garcia Ramirez on terrorist offences has surprised and angered senior police officers and Spanish officials.

The French decision to extradite the men last year was part of a joint French-Spanish plan to combat Basque terrorism. It was the first time that the French courts had granted extradition requests by the Spanish Government.

The move sparked some of the worst street violence for years in northwest Spain, as Basque nationalists celebrated the decision. It was the first time that the French courts had granted extradition requests by the Spanish Government.

Although Mr Garcia Ramirez was acquitted on charges for which he was extradited, he remains in jail pending an outstanding case in which he is accused of a bomb attack which killed four civil guards.

The third alleged terrorist to be extradited, Javier Luembro Galdiano, is still waiting the court's decision.

Scientists planned to poison 500,000 in war

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: Scientists considered using radioactive food to poison 500,000 of the enemy during the second world war, according to a newly declassified letter from Dr J. Robert Oppenheimer to Dr Enrico Fermi, two planners of the atomic bomb.

The proposal, which apparently was never fully developed, was disclosed in an article in the May-June issue of Technology Review, a magazine published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr Oppenheimer, who directed the building of the atomic bomb in the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico, suggested in the letter, dated May 25, 1943, that a plan to contaminate food be delayed until there was enough radioactive poison to kill a half million people, the article said.

The letter, sent from Dr Oppenheimer in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Dr Fermi in Chicago, did not say how the poison would be administered or indicate the enemy against which the poison would be directed.

Dr Fermi, an Italian-born physicist who produced the first nuclear chain reaction in 1942, worked with Dr Oppenheimer on the Manhattan project that built the bomb.

A winner of the Nobel prize in physics in 1938, he died in 1954. Dr Oppenheimer died in 1971.

The author of the article, Professor Barton Bernstein, of Stanford University, wrote that he found the letter in the Library of Congress. He said the project "probably involved an substantial technical problems and the reluctance of military personnel to divert resources from the A-bomb."

"It illustrates an important fact: amid the horror of the second world war including German concentration camps and the mass killing of Jews, many US scientists, like rank-and-file civilians, were willing to devise new ways to kill the enemy by the thousands and even hundreds of thousands," Professor Bernstein wrote.

"I think we should not attempt a plan," Dr Oppenheimer wrote, according to the letter reproduced in the magazine, "unless we can poison food sufficient to kill a half a million men, since there is no doubt that the actual amount will be because of non-uniform distribution, be much smaller than this." — AP.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudanese rebels fight on

SUDAN'S southern rebels said yesterday that they were renewing their push west after a brief truce with the army ruler who ousted President Jaafar Numeiri in a coup earlier this month.

Rebel radio called the new military leadership "another form of the regime of dictator Numeiri." It rejected as baseless a statement reports that the rebel leader, Mr John Garang, was flying for peace talks to the Sudanese capital.

A military spokesman said in Khartoum on Thursday that Colonel Garang would fly there from Ethiopia and meet General Serveddah. But the same spokesman said yesterday without explanation: "I know nothing about the trip." — Reuters.

Student protests ANTI-GOVERNMENT demonstrations erupted on campuses of at least 18 universities and colleges in Seoul yesterday to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of a student-led uprising that led to the downfall of the government. Students threw stones, torches, and bottles at police and broke through police cordons just outside their campuses. — AP.

Burned alive A WOMAN was burned to death by a stray fire from a yard during a landlord-tenant dispute in which the woman's sister was shot dead and her mother wounded, police said in Washington yesterday. Firefighters found the body of Mrs Darrena Shelton, aged 25, Ms Shelton's sister, Sabrina Shelton, aged 22, was later pronounced dead. — AP.

City benighted GUERRILLAS blew up six electricity pylons in Lima's eastern suburbs on Thursday night, plunging the entire city into darkness and forcing the temporary suspension of the official count of the results of last Sunday's elections, writes Mike Reid. Power had still not been restored to many areas of the city by night.

Help for blind THE Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry yesterday unveiled a prototype model of a machine for the blind that reads books and pronounces words on the page using a voice synthesiser. The Kyoto news service reported. The machine can turn pages and read Chinese and Japanese characters at a speed of about 20 pages of a paperback in about one hour. — AP.

Military accused A ROMAN Catholic Bishop accused the military in the Philippines of codding killings of thousands of priests, nuns, and peasants buried in mass graves last week, allegedly by militiamen. A priest who attended the funeral of a slain priest, Bishop Orlando Quevedo, said that the killers should be brought to justice. — AP.

Retrial ordered THE SINGAPORE High Court has ordered two leaders of an opposition party to stand trial again on charges of fraud. Chief Justice Wee Chuan said that the district court had erred in acquitting Mr Joshua Jeyaretnam, secretary-general of the Workers Party, and party chairman, Mr Wong Hong Toy, in December, 1983. — Reuters.

Tourist drive THE AGA Khan Fund for Economic Development will invest \$50 million to revamp Tanzania's dying tourist industry, a fund official announced in Dar-es-Salaam yesterday. A 500-room international hotel is to be built. — AP.

Mercedes theft THIEVES in Italy have robbed General's Communist mayor of his Mercedes limousine, worth £20,000. The car was taken while the mayor, Mr Roger Daffon, was attending a conference in Milan. — AP.

Workers' accord DUTCH metalworkers reached agreement yesterday on a new labour contract after dropping a demand for a 36-hour week, a trade union spokesman said. — Reuters.

Cholera deaths AT LEAST 40 famine victims have died of cholera during the past week in two separate feeding centres in northern Ethiopia, French relief official said in Addis Ababa yesterday. — AP.

18 killed A CROWDED passenger train ploughed into a freight train beginning to leave a siding east of Mexico City yesterday. Police said 18 people died and 82 were injured. — AP.



Killer put to death

Richmond, Va.: A triple-murderer, James D. Briley, the leader of the largest death-row prison escapes in United States history, has been executed in the electric chair where his brother was put to death six months ago.

Earlier in the day, fellow inmates rioted to try to block his electrocution, injuring nine guards and a prisoner.

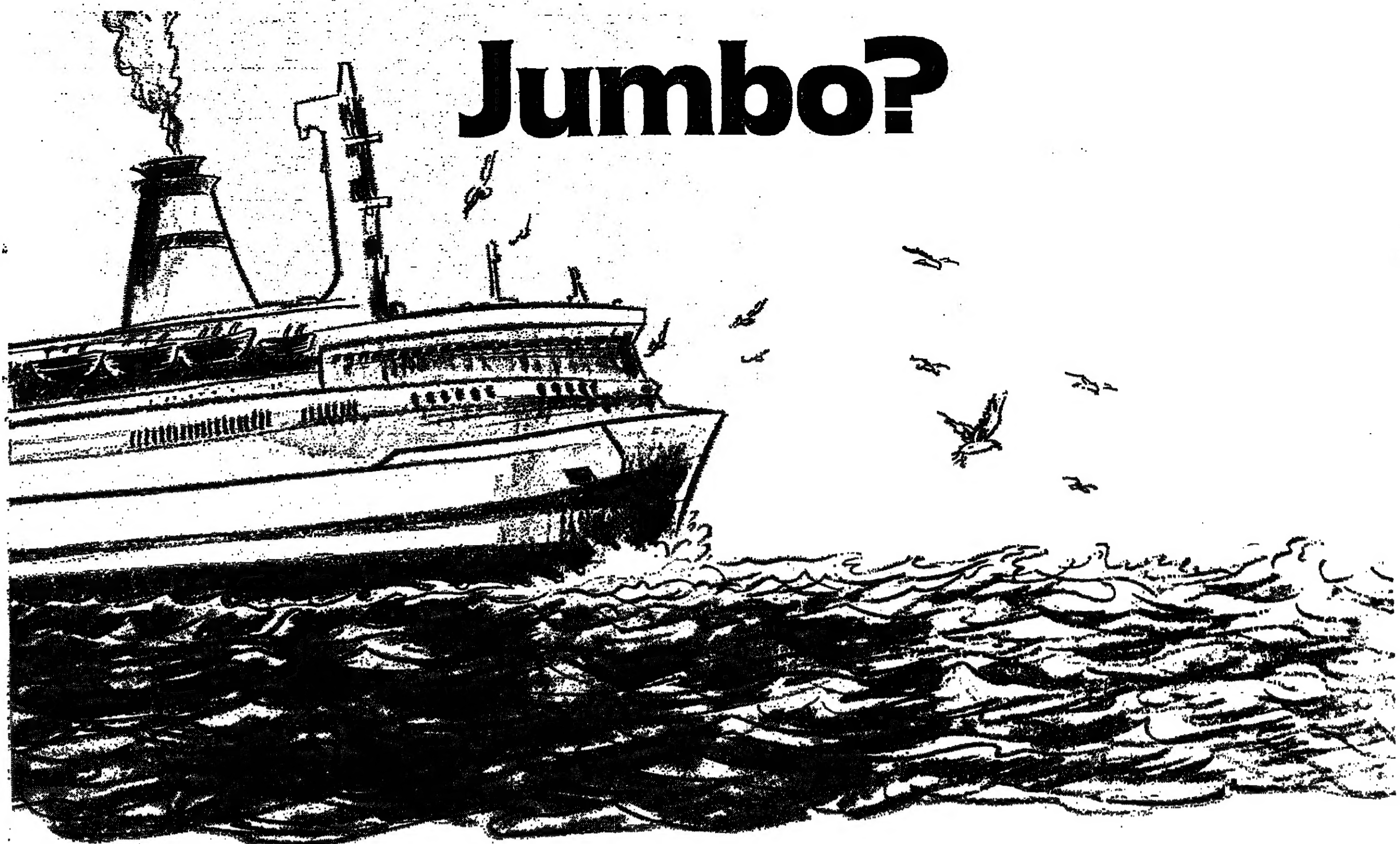
Briley, aged 28, was executed for the murders of a pregnant woman and her young son. He lost two last-ditch appeals to stay his execution. He had no final statement and smiled, said Miss Keith, the prison spokeswoman. He asked the witnesses twice, are you happy?

His brother, Linwood, was put to death on October 12 in the same oak electric chair for a separate murder. James Briley was the 42nd person to be executed since the US Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976.

About 200 anti-death penalty protesters and about 250 supporters of capital punishment gathered on opposite sides of the street outside the penitentiary. They were kept behind rope barriers under the gaze of about 15 state troopers and city police. — AP.

An execution opponent weeps outside the Richmond gaol as murderer James Briley is taken to the electric chair.

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Tests on brain of foetus provoke uproar in Japan

By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent

Japan's Government faces national and international uproar about the state of its mental hospitals following a report that a university doctor removed the brain of a 20-week-old foetus, aborted against the wishes of its mother, to test the effects of a drug.

The Justice Ministry reacted last week by launching an investigation into the medical department at Gifu University, near Kyoto, where the abortion and the alleged experiment took place earlier this year.

But the doctor at the centre of the scandal has left the country. His patient, diagnosed as schizophrenic, is still detained in a mental hospital, and the Health Ministry has promised to consider demands from an MP that she be transferred for her own protection.

The case is likely to be taken up by the International Commission of Jurists, due in Japan next month to examine reports of mistreatment of

mental patients in the country's private hospitals.

The report on the case of 36-year-old Miss A — neither doctor nor patient as being named — comes from the Gifu Psychiatric Association. The mother was being treated for schizophrenia at a hospital in Mitsuami city, Gifu. Her psychiatrist — Dr T. — discovered she was pregnant and decided her illness made it impossible for her to care for a baby.

At 16 weeks, Dr T. transferred her to a Gifu University ward. Miss A was told she was being transferred "for tests". Her common law husband signed his consent to the abortion. Dr T. said she also signed the consent form, but she continues to say she wanted the baby. The abortion was carried out four weeks later.

A first injection of prostaglandin to induce the abortion was given on January 31. Medical notes record Miss A as saying after the injection: "I have to have an abortion."

The foetus was aborted two days later. After the operation,

Miss A said: "I want to see my baby. Where is it now? Can I bring it up?"

Dr T. the report says, then removed the baby's brain. He wished to determine the effect on the fetus of the tranquilliser Haloperidol, given to the mother during pregnancy.

Miss A is quoted in the report as saying: "The doctor asked me if it is all right to use it (her baby) for an experiment." She insists she did not give permission for the experiment to be performed on her baby.

The Gifu psychiatrists' report has been sent to Japan's national Psychiatric Association and to a member of a team of civil rights lawyers, Mr. Masumi Oike, who has been trying for over a year to make the government act on civil rights abuses in mental hospitals.

The case was taken up in the Diet, the Japanese Parliament, last week by Socialist MP, Mr. Katsusuke Ozawa, Miss A, who comes from Gifu, had been sent to the University Hospital against her will, he

told Justice Ministry representatives.

The last mental hospital scandal involved the director of the private Hotokura Utsunomiya Hospital, Dr. Bunmotsu Shikawa. He was found guilty last year of forcing patients to work as unlicensed medical technicians and nurses.

There are about 900 patients at Utsunomiya, 120 miles north of Tokyo. A government investigation discovered that 222 patients at the hospital had died in the past three years. Nineteen of the deaths could have been caused by accidents, the director of public health at the Ministry of Health, Mr. Masumi Oike, told MPs. Some were suicides. Only eight of the deaths had been reported to the police. The death certificates were completed by the hospital's own doctors.

Four staff and a patient have been arrested: it is alleged that they were involved in assaults which led to the deaths of two Utsunomiya patients. According to the death certificates, one died of "cardiac weakness" and the

other from cirrhosis of the liver. The deaths were not reported to the police.

The civil rights lawyers, who last year issued writs of habeas corpus for 538 patients at the hospital in an attempt to free them, claim that Utsunomiya patients have been beaten with iron pipes, bats, and sticks.

Psychiatric care has become a Japanese growth industry. Private hospitals cater for 85 per cent of the country's 330,000 psychiatric patients.

In a country generally envied by the West for the health and longevity of its people, the number of mental patients is rising by some 35,000 a year.

As a proportion of the population, that is not far out of line with Britain before we started dismantling the old asylums. The big difference is in the number of patients held without their consent.

More than 30 per cent of patients are forcibly detained under laws which permit the superintendents of the private hospitals to intern patients forcibly provided relatives con-

sent — the superintendents do not need a medical opinion before detaining patients.

The state pays 80 per cent of the costs of treatment. That subsidy earned the private hospitals 250 million last year. The civil rights lawyers, backed by the president of the Japanese Association of Psychiatric Hospitals, Dr. Isao Hirota, see a conflict of interest here.

The International Commission of Jurists asked the Prime Minister, Mr. Nakasone, a year ago to review the detention process.

The Stockholm-based Disabled People's Association is due in Japan this month to examine the treatment in the mental hospitals. It has claimed that patients have been "deprived of their rights to life. Standard treatment in many institutions would not be considered fit for animals," the association says.

Japan was criticised in the UN human rights committee last summer for alleged violations of the international human rights convention in its treatment of mentally ill patients.

Evidence of ambulancemen puts death figure in doubt

Child of two was among victims at Uitenhage

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

New evidence that a two-year-old child was among the victims of last month's Uitenhage massacre has raised questions about the accuracy of the official death toll announced by police at the time.

Two ambulancemen yesterday told the Kameyer inquiry into the killings that the child's body was found in a hospital washroom. One said that he had identified a reference to the child in his police statement because of intimidation.

The official death toll after the massacre was put at 19. Previous evidence to the inquiry had been that 23 mortuaries had been performed on 20 bodies. But black community leaders have insisted that at least 43 people died.

A local politician, Mrs. Moly Blackburn — a provincial councillor for the Progressive Federal Party — yesterday undertook to supply the Kameyer Commission with the names of the 23 people not yet accounted for.

The two ambulancemen, Mr. Joseph Berry and his colleague, Mr. Dennis Barlow, testified yesterday that they had overheard policemen making racist remarks to the dead and dying blacks at the scene of the shooting.

The body of a two-year-old child had been in the hospital sluice room with four adult bodies. One of the adults was still alive. But, Mr. Berry said, when he told Dr. Isaac Viljoen, the doctor said that the victim had sustained brain damage and would soon die.

Mr. Berry had excluded mention of the child, which had a hole above his right eye, from a statement to the police because of a "threat" not to do so from a superior.

About a week ago he was called to the police station and asked by the prosecutor whether he knew about a child at the shooting. "I said yes, I had seen a child in the sluice room," he said in testimony to the commission yesterday.

Another ambulanceman, Mr. Eric Shultz, told the captain that he, too, had known about the child, and "had seen the police leading it off at the hospital," Mr. Berry added.

Later, Mr. Berry was again called to the police station and asked whether he had seen any irregularities.

He replied that he had, but before he could elaborate a superior in the ambulance corps came to the sluice room. "Any ambulancemen who saw anything other than his patient is not worthy of being called an ambulanceman."

Mr. Berry said: "Maybe it was my moment in that way, but I regarded it as a threat. As a result, I said (to the police officer): 'Write the statement the way you want to.'"

When he expressed concern about being discredited, the officer allegedly advised him to "stick to his story."

At the scene of the shooting, he was distracted from attending to the injured by a police constable, who reportedly said: "Yes, yes, yes. You wanted to be stubborn. Now the Boers have shot you."

Ambulanceman Barlow recalled how he had gone to wash blood from his hands after attending the wounded. "In the sluice room, near the casualty ward, I saw four people lying on the floor on top of each other. They were dead. On the table I saw a baby's blanket. I lifted it up and saw a dead child with a hole above the right eye," he said.

President Botha yesterday accused the United Democratic Front, the main black-led group fighting the country's apartheid laws, of promoting revolution.

In the Government's most explicit warning to the UDF, he told Parliament that the group was an extension of the outlawed African National Congress and the banned South African Communist Party.

Gandhi presses ahead

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

Undaunted by renewed Sikh terrorism, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Government pressed on yesterday its quest for a negotiated solution to unrest in the Punjab.

The authorities released a Sikh politician, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, a few hours after he had overheard policemen making racist remarks to the dead and dying blacks at the scene of the shooting.

The official, Mr. R. L. Bharti, was said last night to be out of danger after an operation on wounds to his neck and back, but a guest at his house was killed in the shooting. Two other people, one of them a local Congress leader, were hurt in a separate raid in Jalandhar, south-east of Amritsar.

The Prime Minister sent his parliamentary secretary, Mr. Arjun Singh, to study the situation on the ground. Security was stepped up in Chandigarh, the Punjab capital, where a unit of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police was deployed around the state Congress Party headquarters.

Nonetheless, the Government went ahead with the release of Mr. Tohra, who survived the assassination attempt in the Golden Temple of Amritsar last June. The Sikh leader who was arrested during that operation on charges of "waging war against the Government" had been held for 10 months in Jodhpur in neighbouring Rajasthan state.

Mr. Tohra, who is president of the committee which administers the Golden Temple and other Sikh shrines, moved the 1978 resolution which spelled out the Akali Dal party's demands for greater autonomy. It was this resolution which laid the foundation for the Sikh campaign of violence and civil disobedience.

The relatively moderate Dal, Mr. Tohra, had earlier, despite Mr. Longowal's hard-line attacks on government policy, Mr. Gandhi followed up his release last weekend by appointing an investigating committee to investigate the anti-Sikh riots perpetrated by Mrs. Indira Gandhi's assassination, and by lifting the ban on the militant All-India Sikh Students' Federation.

Mr. Longowal responded to these gestures by counselling a new agitation drive.

Criminals to be shot on sight

Jakarta: An Indonesian general ordered a security force in South Sumatra to execute criminals on the spot because of a sharp increase in lawlessness in the region, the official Antara news agency said yesterday.

The agency said that Brigadier-General Roestandi told his men to shoot dead robbers, murderers, and rapists who were caught in the act. Those who attacked security officers should also be executed without trial, he added.

In 1983 hundreds of bodies of murdered suspected criminals appeared across Indonesia in what human rights groups said was an officially-sponsored anti-crime wave. — Reuters.

UN sanctions urged against Pretoria

From our own Correspondent in New Delhi

The Non-aligned Movement called yesterday for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions on South Africa for refusing to grant independence to Namibia.

A ministerial conference, marking the 25th anniversary of the South West Africa People's Organisation, condemned Pretoria's recent decision to install a puppet regime in the mandated territory.

The movement's chairman, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, told the opening session yesterday that the world could ill afford to sit by and watch this latest action by South Africa, which was a challenge to the authority and credibility of the Security Council, which produced its own plan for Namibia's independence in 1978, and declared unilateral measures null and void.

Foreign Ministers representing 100 non-aligned countries called on the international community to condemn South Africa's proposal to set up an "internal administration" in Namibia and to "refrain from according any recognition to this latest ploy of the racist Pretoria regime to perpetuate its illegal occupation."

Mr. Sam Nujoma, the president of Swapo, appealed for an oil embargo against South Africa. In a refrain taken up by most speakers he condemned the United States and other Western countries for colluding with Pretoria. Peace, he said, could not be achieved without removing the root cause of Apartheid.

In Nairobi, the Organisation of African States yesterday warned of a "blood-bath" if Pretoria's plan went ahead.

The South African President, Mr. P. W. Botha, told Parliament on Thursday that he would go ahead with the plan for a "new" Namibian government by a group of internal parties which excludes Swapo.

Leader comment, page 12

Lange laments tour amid angry reaction in NZ

From Ian Templeton in Wellington

The Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange, is to write to Commonwealth leaders about the New Zealand Rugby Football Union's decision to tour South Africa.

Mr. Lange will emphasise his Government's opposition to the tour but note that it cannot prevent the All Blacks leaving the country.

Meanwhile, the war of words between the Prime Minister and the Rugby Union has intensified, with Mr. Lange accusing the rugby council of "selfishness" and of breaking its word to him.

The chairman of the Rugby Union, Mr. Ces Blazey, had, in terms of rugby politics, "an agility which makes a chameleon look absolutely rigid," said Mr. Lange, who added that he had made the mistake of treating the union's councillors as "honourable men."

Mr. Blazey replied that if Mr. Lange believed he was a liar, "I am more than happy to let the people of New Zealand judge that for themselves."

Asked how he would respond to a Rugby Union request for a state reception for the English Rugby Union team next month, the Prime Minister said he could not imagine "anything more grotesque."

England has become a potential target for protests because it toured South Africa last year, and the visit in May will be the first major rugby event since New Zealand's decision to tour South Africa.

The Rugby Union is finding a heavy cost to its decision. Earlier, it told that commercial sponsorship worth about \$120,000 may be withdrawn in protest against the tour.

The New Zealand Apple and Pear Marketing Board and Thorntons said they were considering withdrawing sponsorship and fast-food chain McDonalds said it had cancelled schoolboy rugby grants.

And New Zealand's nine Roman Catholic bishops have expressed "bitter disappointment" at the tour decision. An opportunity of expressing solidarity with oppressed people has been lost, they said.

Reaction in New Zealand continued yesterday with many school rugby coaches withdrawing from the playing fields.

There were reports of attacks on rugby clubs in various parts of the country, with goal posts cut down and an arson raid on two South Island clubs.

The Auckland rugby administration, Mr. Ron Don, one of the 18-man Rugby Council, said such action "will not stop the tour. It will only harden the tremendous support for the tour."

Letters, page 12

Queensland laws under fire

From Richard Yallop in Melbourne

As Queensland found itself cut off by a 24-hour transport union blockade yesterday, Australia's Human Rights Commission claimed the legislation which caused the blockade broke international agreements protecting workers from "forced or compulsory labour."

The blockade, the first organised by the Australian Council of Trade Unions, stopped rail, and sea traffic into Queensland from midnight on Thursday. Some private bus and transport operators continued to cross the border, but most road freight was also stopped. The ACTU's industrial officer, Mr. Ian Court, said the blockade had stopped two million tons of freight from reaching Queensland, but the state's right-wing Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, claimed it was "a fiasco."

The union action was intended to draw attention to anti-union legislation introduced by Sir Joh following a strike by electricity workers in February which led to a fortnight of blackouts in the state.

The Premier dismissed more than 800 power workers, refusing to reinstate them

Hu promises to cut Chinese forces

From our Correspondent in Wellington

The Chinese Communist Party leader, Mr. Hu Yaobang, said yesterday that his country would cut its armed forces by one million men, a reduction of almost 25 per cent.

Mr. Hu told a press conference in Wellington after a meeting with Mr. David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, that his country had no military role to play in the South Pacific.

"We not only do not have that intention, but I have told my New Zealand friends just now that China will cut back its conventional forces. Starting from this year to next year, there will be a decrease of one million men in conventional forces in China."

Asked how China intended to maintain its defences against possible aggressors, Mr. Hu replied: "Given the turn for the better in terms of political stability and economic growth in China, even if there will be a reduction of one million in China's conventional forces, we are confident we have the full capability to defend our country."

lessness of the most Pathan bus drivers.

Police were stoned and buses burned, but there was also looting and burning of shops. Police fired indiscriminately, according to many reports, and one policeman died in hospital.

Troops were called in and an indefinite curfew imposed, calming down the rioters. But after a day of relative calm violence between Pathans and Biharis erupted in nearby Orangi Town.

This morning the bodies were brought out. From what reporters saw and doctors said it seems that most of the victims were stabbed or hacked to death.

44 die in Karachi riots

From Alex Brodie in Islamabad

At least 44 people have been left dead in Karachi after five days of rioting and inter-communal bloodshed which was sparked off by a road accident.

It began when a mini bus ploughed into a crowd of female students who were crossing the road. One died, and a subsequent impromptu protest demonstration by girls from the same college was tear-gassed by police. Forty of them were hurt.

The two incidents together provoked an outburst which engulfed much of Karachi's west district in an anti-police and anti-bus driver riot.

There have been many protests in the past at the rock-

Letters, page 12

150 من الامن

Admiral gaoled for murder

From T. R. Lansner in Taipei

Taiwan's sacked military intelligence chief was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for ordering the murder of a prominent Chinese-American critic of the Taiwan Government in San Francisco last October 15.

The court martial verdict against Vice-Admiral Wong Hsi-Li, aged 58, came a week after a civil court passed similar sentence on two members of a Taiwan crime syndicate, the Bamboo Union, for involvement in the crime.

The court said that Admiral Wong engaged a leading Bamboo Union member, Chen Chih-Li, to kill Henry Liu, a 52-year-old author and editor of a San Francisco-based Chinese language newspaper frequently critical of the Taiwan regime.

Liu emigrated to the United States from Taiwan in 1968, and held American citizenship.

The incident is straining American-Taiwan relations at a moment when improving Sino-American relations are making many questions unanswered. Henry Liu is alleged to have been a double or triple agent, accepting money not only from Taiwan, but also from American and Chinese intelligence agencies.



A Kampuchean flees with her children further into Thailand in fear of attacks by the Vietnamese occupation force which has crushed Kampuchean resistance

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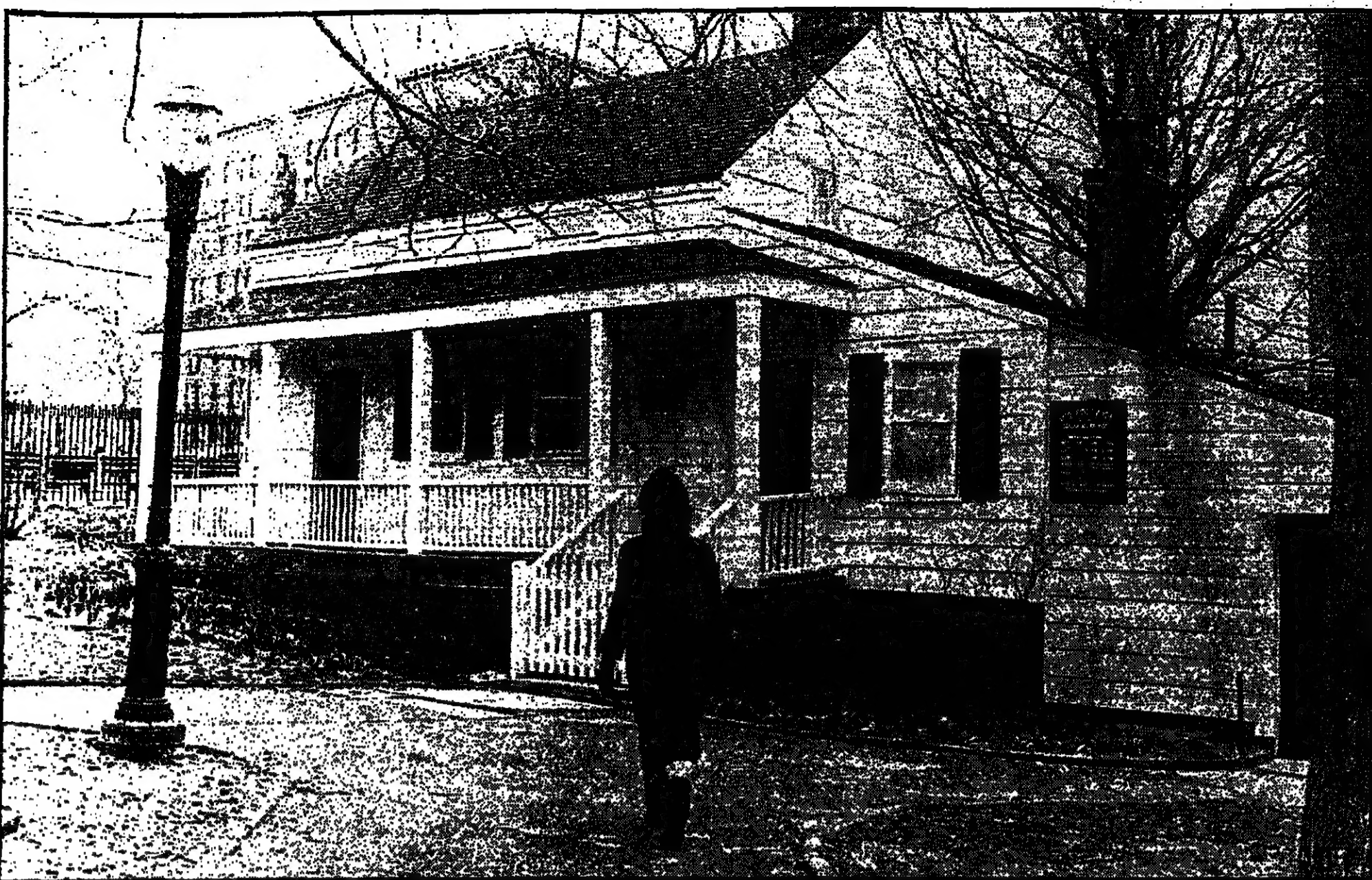
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Off the beaten track in New York: Jeff Katz heads for his native Bronx while Simon Calder goes shopping



Edgar Allan Poe's cottage; picture by Jeff Katz

A 90 cent ride to meet the locals, including Asian tigers and the spirit of Edgar Allan Poe

THE EGG CREAM, a beverage indigenous to the Bronx, contains no egg and no cream. It is made of chocolate syrup, milk, and soda, mixed according to a tradition that is practically sacred. It is one of the things that periodically draws me back to the Bronx.

Visitors to New York who never leave the confines of Manhattan miss seeing how most New Yorkers live. They also miss out on many of the city's finest attractions. The Bronx is a case in point.

It has a reputation for being a decayed and dangerous part of the city. Charlotte Street in the south Bronx has become a symbolic stop for politicians campaigning for urban renewal. Blocks of burnt-out apartments and rubble-filled lots have the look of a war zone.

But there are more than 40 square miles to the Bronx and most of that is as safe as the residential areas of Camden and Hammersmith. As for the New York subway system, it is not wise to be in an empty station in the middle of the night in any strange city. But in the daytime there is little to fear.

You can travel by Express Bus from Manhattan to the Bronx. They are comfortable, privately operated buses that cost \$2.50 per ride. There is also a train from Grand Central Station to the Harlem

Line. But there is nothing like the subway for sampling the rhythm and colour of everyday life in New York.

To ride the subway to the Bronx from the east side of Manhattan, take the no. 4 train going to Woodlawn, which is on the IRT line. From the west side, catch the D train going to 205th Street on the IND line. No matter how far you go on the New York subway, the cost is only 90 cents.

The place to get off from either train is Fordham Road. The trip from midtown Manhattan will take about 40 minutes. If you're on the No. 4 you will be riding in the open air on the El once in the Bronx, and the first stop when the train comes out from underground is Yankee Stadium, home of the New York Yankees baseball team.

From this point the train travels over Jerome Avenue, a street named after the family of Jenny Jerome, Winston Churchill's mother. One of her ancestors built a race course in the Bronx and Jerome Avenue was the road that led to it.

At the north-east exit of the Fordham Road stop is a woman's clothing store called Loehmann's. Back upon rack of designer dresses, suits

coats, and jackets — all at greatly reduced prices — makes the store a haunt of New York bargain hunters. Walking east toward the Grand Concourse, the street life of the Bronx throbs in all its ethnic variety.

The area was first settled in 1639 by Jonas Bronck, a Swedish immigrant. He gave his name to the Bronx River which in turn lent its name to the borough. By the turn of the century the Irish had moved in and with a further influx from eastern and southern Europe, mostly Jews and Italians, the population grew to more than one and a half million. Some of the Euro-

pean population remains, but as the second and third generations have moved away from the city, they have been supplanted by Blacks and Hispanics.

The Grand Concourse and Fordham Road (where the D train riders make their exit) is the commercial hub of the Bronx. Alexander's Department store looms large over the intersection, and it is another place for excellent buys — Brazilian leather handbags were recently available for \$5.

Continuing eastward you will arrive at the campus of Fordham University. Founded in 1841, it became

one of the most famous Jesuit universities in the country. The neo-Gothic buildings are set in a 30-acre parkland, and a walk diagonally through from Fordham Road leads to the New York Botanical Garden.

The Garden is New York's version of Kew, a 250-acre setting for an ever-changing show of floral and botanical splendour. A walk through its hemlock forest — the last in the city — brings you to the 19th-century stone building that is open as a restaurant during the summer.

Across the road is another wonder, the New York Zoological Gardens, better known as the Bronx Zoo. It is home to more than 3,800 wild animals. Many are kept in settings which reproduce their natural habitats; a menagerie will take you through Wild Asia where 400lb tigers prowl.

If you leave the zoo by the Rainey Gate, a great bronze memorial of sculpted bears, tortoises, and deer, you can take the No. 12 bus back to the Grand Concourse. The bus also costs 90 cents to ride and you must have the correct change. Walk north on the east side of the Concourse and

you will quickly come to Sutter's, one of the finest bakeries in the Bronx, where you can relax with a coffee or tea and a pastry.

Very near is a small park with a pretty white cottage in the far corner, Fox Cottage. It was home to Edgar Allan Poe for the last three years of his life. His wife died there in 1847, inspiring him to write some of his most melancholy poems. But, except on Saturday, it is only open in the afternoon.

If your appetite grows large while you're in the Fordham area, you could stop at the Palace Diner on the corner of 188th Street and Creston Avenue, one block south of Fordham Road. There you will find the best of Jewish delicacies: corned beef (called salt beef in Britain, but cut differently) and pastrami. Try the Dr. Brown's Celery Tonic, a celery flavoured fizzy drink.

These egg creams are usually sold in candy stores, a sort of cross between a newsagent and a sweet shop. If it's done right, you will enjoy a creamy, frothy concoction for 65 cents which will haunt you for the rest of your life.

Jeff Katz

Plumbing the erotic depths in the hunt for rude food

IT IS entirely possible to visit New York and get truly ripped off from the taxi ride into Manhattan to the duty-free shop at Kennedy where prices are above those in British high streets. Conversely, you can take advantage of cheap flights and by careful buying of clothing and electrical equipment you may even start to show a profit on the trip. But where New York's shopkeepers differ from their dreary counterparts elsewhere in the world is in the extraordinary range of gadgets and gewgaws following needs a visitor never knew existed.

The city probably does not have a monopoly on wild strawberry flavoured lip balm or multicoloured sponge-and-string devices which claim to catch teatime spout drips. It is not the only American city to specialise in tourist tat such as T-shirts which say "My folks want to the Bronx and all I got was this lousy T-shirt" or lurid pink sweat shirts with the motto:

These are red.
Violence is blue.
I'm schizophrenic.
And so on.

However, for some items, New York is the only place to go. Goods which simply unobtainable elsewhere can be found in Manhattan: it is difficult to understand how even New York's foibles can sustain them.

The Erotic Baker (246 E 51st St.) is the world's first pornographic bakery. You go down a rickety staircase to a small, unassuming basement shop. You can buy a heart-shaped cream cake for \$12, topped with either a carefully sculptured penis or pair of breasts. Rum-filled testicles cost 75c each, or \$1.50 the pair. As in almost every New York store, you can pay with Visa or MasterCard (Access). The place seems full of women shoppers, predominantly middle-aged, casually choosing various sugary pieces of genitalia. The bakery now also sells conventional cakes and confectionery; I noticed a trace of regret when the sales girl told me that "at least 50 per cent of our work is now non-erotic".

E. Altman's is a rather staid, stuffy, and extremely expensive department store across the road from the Empire State Building. It is also one of the few New York shops to sell the Aromance Aroma Disc Player. This miniature plastic gramophone "creates" "environmental fragrances" by scraping the surface of a smelly disc. Among the fragrances on offer at \$4 per disc are: Seduction, The Party's Over (the smell of fresh black coffee), Movie Time (popcorn), Men's World (the

sophistication of a private study), and Passion. Quite how much passion might be aroused by the quiet whirring of an off-played disc is questionable. The player costs \$25, but the lucky buyer will have to splash out on a voltage transformer to use it outside North America.

Fragrance is a major problem at Bloomingdale's (Lexington Avenue and 59th St.). The ground floor is swarming with armed perfume sellers, and it is impossible to negotiate certain key intersections without being sprayed with assorted fragrances which result in you getting strange looks from anyone you come into contact with later in the day.

Bloomingdale's no longer sells bags of ancient Greenland ice, so you'll have to make do with an ultrasonic humidifier (\$150) or an electric pencil sharpener (\$5). For the kitchen, such invaluable items as a ring pull lifter (\$10) or a \$1.35 cork sharpener. The store also caters for the constant demand for what can only be described as egg-essentials. The Egg Rite egg timer (\$3.99) claims to be the first to take into account altitude as well as temperature to determine when an egg is boiled to perfection. The recommended altitude is the recommended altitude (\$12.95). An electric device which scrambles the egg inside the shell. When boiled to perfection at any altitude, cracking the shell reveals a rather unappealing homogeneous beige mass.

Manhattan's excellent book shops are well stocked with guides to assist the inexperienced shopper. One of the funniest is New York On 100 Day (before lunch), Messrs Kadish, Kirtland, and Begelman direct the visitor who believes that reaching one's credit limit is an art form to 54th Avenue. For a sizeable chunk of the morning's allowance, the Dog Tugery department will kit out a poodle in a ski parka with matching rubber boots.

Whether buying gifts for animals, relations, or those you hold in limited esteem, bear in mind that sales tax of 8 per cent is added to the price quoted. So if you're down to your last \$5, don't try to buy a \$4.99 plastic bagel holder from Macy's (Herald Square between 7th Avenue and Broadway). And remember that customs officers in Britain will take great delight in levying "duty on erotic confectionery, electric egg scramblers, and exotic canine clothing worth more than the personal allowance of £28.

Simon Calder

New York briefcase

New York Air Fares. Lowest rates currently on offer. People Express (0293 38100): Today at £154 one way, goes up to £172 from April 28.

Virgin Atlantic (0293 549771): One way from £159 Mon-Thurs, from £169 Fri to Sun. Valid until the end of May. Return — twice single fare.

TWA. Pan Am. British Airways: Apex return £339 Mon-Thurs, £369 Fri-Sun. Minimum stay 7 nights, maximum stay six months, 21 days advance

booking. British Airways Stand-by from £179 each way. American Airlines (0932 246166) offer return charter fares in May from £279 other wise the above standard fares apply. £329 and £369. American Express (01-631 0747): Price Buster Holidays offer a New York super apex return from £331 until the end of May. Greyhound 1985 Ameripass offers unlimited travel on Greyhound USA routes from \$75 for 7 days.

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Peter Brown on an encounter with a bunch of under-age hoodlums in Paris Out of pocket

IT WAS, as we kept telling one another, a very beautiful day. Yet none of them moved. My wife was unsympathetic. "Check your pockets again," she suggested.

The girl still did not move when I reached for her arm and then patted her pocket. Every part of her that might conceal a stolen wallet. I did the same with the boy. Neither spoke: the search revealed nothing. A third child turned and gestured towards the archway into the street and said, "Pitie, Pitie."

It seemed a likely explanation. A fourth even smaller child had already run away with the contents of my "pockets". My wife, by now convinced that something was wrong, said: "There seemed to be a woman over there directing it all." I turned hoping to catch sight of her or the "petite". It was all over. The children were scattering. One seemed to be tapping his head and pronouncing me "you".

It was a shaking experience, a sort of rape. I had lost all those bits of plastic that give an identity to late 20th-century consumer man among strangers, the bits that persuade machines to give up money as well as those that tell guards to allow the owner respectfully and unquestioned past security barriers. Five hundred francs, £20 and my passport had gone as well. So had driving licence, cover note, stamps and a collection of all but irreplaceable telephone numbers.

There will be lots of beautiful mornings in Paris this summer and no one should be discouraged from enjoying any of them, even by the possibility of tangling with so rude a method of redistributing power and wealth. But be advised: button your coat, keep your money (and plastic) hard to reach and remember that the rougher techniques of parting you from them may have been polished up even by small children.

stood there. "You've picked my pockets," I said pointlessly. None of them moved. My wife was unsympathetic. "Check your pockets again," she suggested.

The girl still did not move when I reached for her arm and then patted her pocket. Every part of her that might conceal a stolen wallet. I did the same with the boy. Neither spoke: the search revealed nothing. A third child turned and gestured towards the archway into the street and said, "Pitie, Pitie."

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I'm waiting for the man, twenty-six dollars in my hand. Here he comes, he's all dressed in Dior shoes and a big straw hat. He's never early, he's always late.

First thing you learn is that you always go to work.

SO SANG Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground about scoring in New York City. Scoring drugs, that is, not sex. But pushers and pimps have a lot in common. An image, for one thing. Dior shoes and a big straw hat maybe, but certainly, the rewards of their bid and ignoble trades.

They're also both targets of moral outrage. You may forgive the drug user or the whore as mere victims, but not the evil shadowy men behind them. Dark, sinister, and apparently quite other black. "The pusher is a monster," says a former sex addict, "and a forgotten one. A pop group, and most people believe it, and would happily apply the label to pimps as well. Cold, callous manipulators, heartless, gutless, and loaded."

But what is the reality? On the streets of New York, or even Marseilles, may walk a pimp with a chunky gold bracelet, chunky, hand-crafted shoes, and chunky Fedoras, but not, thankfully, on the streets of Sheffield. Sheffield is no Miami when it comes to vice; it's not even a London. It does have massage parlours, it does have a red light district (where the Yorkshire Rippers career came mercifully to its sticky end), and, of course, it does have the demand. But it doesn't have the sheer size or the reputation of the anonymity which successful vice seems to require.

The girls on the streets are the same girls in the pubs or night clubs. Ordinary girls with ordinary needs and desires. They can't so much hide their guilty secret as laugh it off. When you ask them why they do it, few girls blame the recession, but a few, some will tell you. But a surprising number meta-

morphosed into stunts, having failed to metamorphose into anything else first. "I just wanted to work in a bank," says one, "but I couldn't get in anywhere. Now I'm used to depositing sums that the cashiers only dream about. 'I'm afraid there's no going back now,' and you can see her gold tooth when she smiles. You don't know whether to feel more sorry for her or the penniless cashiers. But I thought I'd start with the infrastructure of vice. After all, whores may come and go, so to speak, but pimps, like cashiers, are harder to remove. So I decided to meet someone who fixed blokes up with girls. Not too flash, just an ordinary working lad — like the girls themselves. A normal chap who makes a bit of money out of fixing blokes up with girls and perhaps looks after the girls as well."

I came to interview him with my stereotypes and prejudices shattered. My moral outrage under control. Just then John walked in — six foot two, fifteen stone, twenty-eight, ex-bouncer, ex-blacksmith, a professional heavy who almost joined the army. So far, so good. And then we chatted. How did he get into

John originally worked as a night porter in a hotel outside Sheffield. Life wasn't easy. "Long hours for damn all pay. I was fighting a lot and getting all my exercise that way. But when I moved to a hotel in Sheffield, I wasn't getting enough exercise, I was getting fat. So after I finished work in the early morning, me and a friend would take some weights and a punch bag out to the country. We'd lie it up to a tree and work out every morning. Oh it was beautiful. Fantastic. My friend had a bit of a bad back but I knew enough about weights to help him out with different things. We'd wash in the cold stream afterwards. Oh, it was beautiful. Then I'd take my friend back down to the station to get the train home. But then the weather got bad so we were missing a few mornings. We mentioned this

to a guy called Bob who was vaguely known, who's very interested in boxing. We were telling him about our training and how it was disrupted by the weather. He told us that a friend of his had got a summa with a guy who don't go down there. So we went down to see the bloke who owned it, and he said we could put a punch bag up, use the weights, the sauna, and the jacuzzi. Fantastic. All free. He also said if there were any trouble could we help out. We said of course we can. That's how I got involved and got to meet the girls. I knew most of them from around town anyway."

"I started looking after four girls, finding them customers and all the rest of it. I used to take one of the girls out. I told her she had to get herself smartened up, though. I've got a big car, you see, a bit flash. I used to go round the clubs finding her good punter. Earned a bit of money for myself and them as well. I

'When the snooker's on at the Crucible, there's a lot of visitors to the town. The man says to Geoffrey Beattie, 'Entirely as a bloke to a bloke, I'll fix him up with some nice looking girl I know he can take out. And nobody will be saying "Look who's out with the brass." She'll get £100 and I'll get a drink . . . The last bloke gave me forty-five quid for looking after him.'

The pimp's tale

used to go to a lot of Blues as well — you know, the all nighters for blacks. I started mixing with these black guys and their girls. You should see them up Spital Hill in Sheffield on Tuesdays."

John is critical of girls with black pimps. "They're the low life girls; they've got a way of talking. They imitate the black men's patois, they develop a sort of accent. It sounds so cheap. You can always tell them, they always say 'You know.' You know what I mean, right? They shut on the right. It's just me that notices these things, I think. 'Do you want a cup of coffee you know,' slurring all the time. Or 'He's my man, you know, you've got to leave him.' They slur all over the bloody place. They try to talk like black men."

John has his own views on how girls get into this line of work. "A lot of them have a rough background and leave home. And often, a lot of black men are out looking for

these young girls that leave home. The blacks have got the run of it, for some reason. I wish I knew why. The man takes half their money, even two-thirds of it. He then protects them against other pimps. But it's all a bit of a joke. The pimps get their mates to harass the girls and the pimp will come up and say 'You leave my woman alone, and she's thinking, 'Oh, thank God for that, and it's just a game the pimps play for each other. It's psychological, I suppose. And these guys will be dealing in hash as well. In the sauna, they only let in the people they want. They're more control; but to be honest, they let anybody in. They don't really know what they're like until they get in. Some get a bit violent and slap the girls about."

John has had to step in a few

times to the girl he was going out with. "There was this guy, he was a bit mucky and my girl friend didn't want to do anything, you see. He smelt; she wanted him to go and have a shower and all that, and that's what started the argument. So I went up and he was standing at the back with a wine bottle in his hand. He wanted to have a go, you see. So I took it off him, but he got that violent, I had to let him have it. When I say let him have it, I don't mean I brutally made a mess of him, I just sort of knocked him semi-conscious."

"But, I say, 'weren't you a little worried for your girl friend's safety?' 'Not really, I wasn't thinking of her as a steady girl friend. She was just a steady fuck.'"

shall we say. They've got a few girls working for them who are often under age, who don't know anything else. Some of these girls in winter try to get into the sauna."

The only way to categorise girls really is those who are working for blacks and those who aren't. Those that work for the blacks might go to the Blues with them but they're no real social life. The girls who do it for themselves, and any girl I know, do have a social life. They're nice clean living girls that you wouldn't think were on the game. They know the crack, they're very wide. They know what all the chat's about."

John is especially useful for fixing girls up with punters from out of town, through his other work in the hotel. "When the snooker's on at the Crucible or when there's businessmen's conferences, there's a lot of visitors to the town. It's entirely on your own back — it's nothing to do with any place you work for. It's entirely as a bloke to a bloke. They don't want ripping off and it's got to be a decent looking girl otherwise they'll think 'who the hell's he?' What's he doing to me?"

"So rather than send him to a sauna, I'll fix him up with some nice looking girl I know that he can take out. And nobody will be saying 'Look who's out with the brass.' They can go out with some company, who can talk, present herself well, and even associate with his friends if necessary. She'll get £100 and I'll get a drink from the businessman. The last bloke gave me forty-five quid for looking after him. He was worried, you see, that he'd end up with a right dog."

"The art is not to be known as someone who is always mixing with prostitutes. The art is to get people to say 'He's right and he's a bit of a fucker, but you up with a bird, if you want.' That's the difference. Do you understand? I want to keep myself on that middle line. I'd hate to have a bad name for anything."

Next Saturday: The masquerade's tale.

Nature may be red in tooth and claw, but do either the huntsmen or the hunt saboteurs have to follow suit, asks veterinary surgeon Bryan Heath

Animal rites

FEW reasonable people would stoop to grave robbing, but most of the actions taken by hunt saboteurs indicate that their feelings are deep and sincere. It is difficult to say with certainty that these feelings are justified; things which appear to be cruel may not be.

Some practices are easily recognised as cruel. Few would deny that keeping underbred animals in filthy conditions, badger baiting, or releasing caged mink into the countryside are barbarously brutal, but there are laws to prohibit such things, and if the general public were solidly behind the fight against cruelty, the laws could be enforced.

There are many other practices which the legendary "reasonable" man would acknowledge as being cruel. The trouble is that it is difficult to find a line between things that are reasonable and things that are not. Some reasonable men might disagree, and here we come to the pouter which bedevils many campaigns against cruelty. The pouter is a small, scruffy, and often ugly dog, but the ones who think that a practice is cruel have a moral right to be concerned. They must attempt to convert the opposition would be justified or even praiseworthy, but using force to advance an opinion smacks of dogmatism.

Those who have seen two small boys arguing by exchanging abuse know that, though such exchanges rarely produce conversions, they do lead to a more civilised dispute. Similarly, the dispute between hunters and saboteurs may go on forever and produce some regrettable incidents. Instead of being converted, both sides will become even more committed to their own ideas. Force from either side is likely to provoke retaliatory action, but will not convert the opposition.

Neither saboteurs nor hunters produce convincing arguments. Hunts put forward the potentially absurd contention that if they stopped hunting, the fox population would rise to unacceptable heights. In fact, farmers would control the population and, if they failed, pest officers could practically eradicate foxes during the course of a few months. The saboteurs describe how the fox is torn to pieces by hounds; and ignore the fact that the fox spends much of his time tearing other animals to pieces.

If the two sides would picture an earth where *Homo sapiens* had followed the other hominids down the path to extinction, they might find it easier to come to terms with each other. It is as certain as can be that in a world free from mankind, the life of the fox would not be all that different from what it is now. It would kill young lambs and overkill birds whenever it got the chance; in fact, its survival would depend upon chasing and killing other animals. But the law of the wild being what it is, the fox would sometimes find itself at the front of the chase. And the fox would not be all that different from what it is now. It would kill young lambs and overkill birds whenever it got the chance; in fact, its survival would depend upon chasing and killing other animals. But the law of the wild being what it is, the fox would sometimes find itself at the front of the chase. And the fox would not be all that different from what it is now. 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WEEK-END ARTS

Next week's TV and radio

Monday

End Of Empire (ITV, 9.0). Churchill is fast emerging as the villain of the piece in this promising series about Britain's loss of empire. It was his double-dealing and determination to hang on to India, regardless of US intentions and his own representative there, Sir Stafford Cripps, that may eventually have led to partition — or so this second episode implies.

Unstable Elements (C4, 10.30). If America didn't want Britain to have an empire, the didn't want us to have the Bomb either. Nor, come to that, did some of the British scientists working on the project as the first part of this film shows.

Tuesday

Channel 4 Racing (2.15). As a little light relief from the Royal Family's recent dynastic difficulties, Princess Anne rides in the 2.35 at Epsom. Brough Scott will be providing the SP, helped no doubt by the excellent John McCrick.

Television (ITV, 8.0). The sad fact, glossed over in this retrospective about sitcoms from I Love Lucy on, is that all the best humour nowadays is to be found in dramas like *Minder*, *Private Practice*, and the superb *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*. All the recent sitcoms about death, disease, and the generation gap put together have fewer laughs than, say, one episode of *Steptoe*.

Wednesday

Lou Grant (C4, 10.0). A re-run of the outstanding series set in the newsroom of an LA radio station. The show boasted ensemble playing as skilled as *Hill Street Blues* and an entertaining treatment of such issues as the death penalty, rape, drunk driving, and the Moonies.

Natalie (Makrova, 10.0). The oft-repeated wisdom that the daily life of a ballet dancer is like permanent training for a marathon appears to be true in the case of the Russian, Natalie Makrova. She is her polishing up her classical technique with an elegant Russian teacher and jazzing it up with Roland Petit. And she talks almost as well as she dances.

Thursday

Return To Vietnam (ITV, 10.30). Nicholas Nickleby, the one who didn't count them out and count them back in the Falklands, takes a 1,400-mile trek from Hanoi to Saigon describing how the country has changed since the war ended 10 years ago.

Orpheus And Eurydice (C4, 10.55). It may sound chivalric to say so, but easily the most interesting part of this programme — pursuing

the Orpheus legend from its classical origins — is the Guardian's Michael Billington talking about its modern manifestations in the works of Anouilh, Tennessee Williams and Cocteau, who moulded it to fit their own obsessions.

Friday

Omnibus Presents Hancock (BBC2, 10.15). If ever there was a tale to make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, it is this. Some of the clips — the boring Sunday afternoon, the leeches at the clinic wanting an armful of blood — are as funny 30 years on as the day they were recorded. But former colleagues' memories of the man himself are uniformly sad. On screen he didn't want to be Hancock so much as Chaplin, an international comedy star.

The Million Pound Bird Book (BBC2, 9.25). David Attenborough in pursuit of the birdman of Philadelphia, John James Audubon, born 200 years ago, was a demon hunter who used freshly killed birds as models for his uniquely life-like studies which in 1826 he published in *The Birds of America*, recently fetched £1.5 million at auction.

Helen Oldfield

Radio

Today: Chimera (Radio 4, 3.30 pm). Promising thriller about the work of a top-secret government lab where something has gone seriously wrong, adapted by Stephen Gallagher from his own novel.

Tomorrow: It's Your World (Radio 4, 12.10 pm). The President of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, in this international phone-in.

Monday: Mirror, Signal, Manoeuvre (Radio 4, 8.15 pm). Cheerfully improper play about a driving instructor's adventures in London's low-life.

Tuesday: Sir Stanley Bous (Radio 4, 4 pm). A trio of football's golden oldies, Sir M. Busby, Sir S. Matthews and Sir W. Winterbottom celebrate the 50th birthday of the goldenest of oldies of them all.

Wednesday: Checkpoint (Radio 4, 7.30 pm). On the day when a whole clutch of new series of old favourites return to the air, Roger Cook is back with yet more examples of crookery, injustice, and bungling.

Thursday: Screen for Help (Radio 4, 7.30 pm). Documentary about the problems of the British film industry, followed by a phone-in, chaired by Michael Billington, with a selection of experts including Norman Lamont who has the impressive (if surprising) title of Minister with Responsibility for Films.

LOST in the damp forests of northern Argentina, forgotten in the simple grasslands of southern Paraguay, hidden in the vast plains of eastern Bolivia, and ignored in the red hills of southern Brazil, lie the remains of the great Jesuit missions of the eighteenth century — one of the most extraordinary social experiments of all time.

Over a period of more than 150 years, Jesuit priests sought to Christianise the native population of central South America by assembling the Indians into what we would now call banquists of huge, largely self-sufficient mission stations designed to attract the local caciques and their tribes, and, in some sense, to protect them from the predatory instincts of the Spanish and Portuguese colonists.

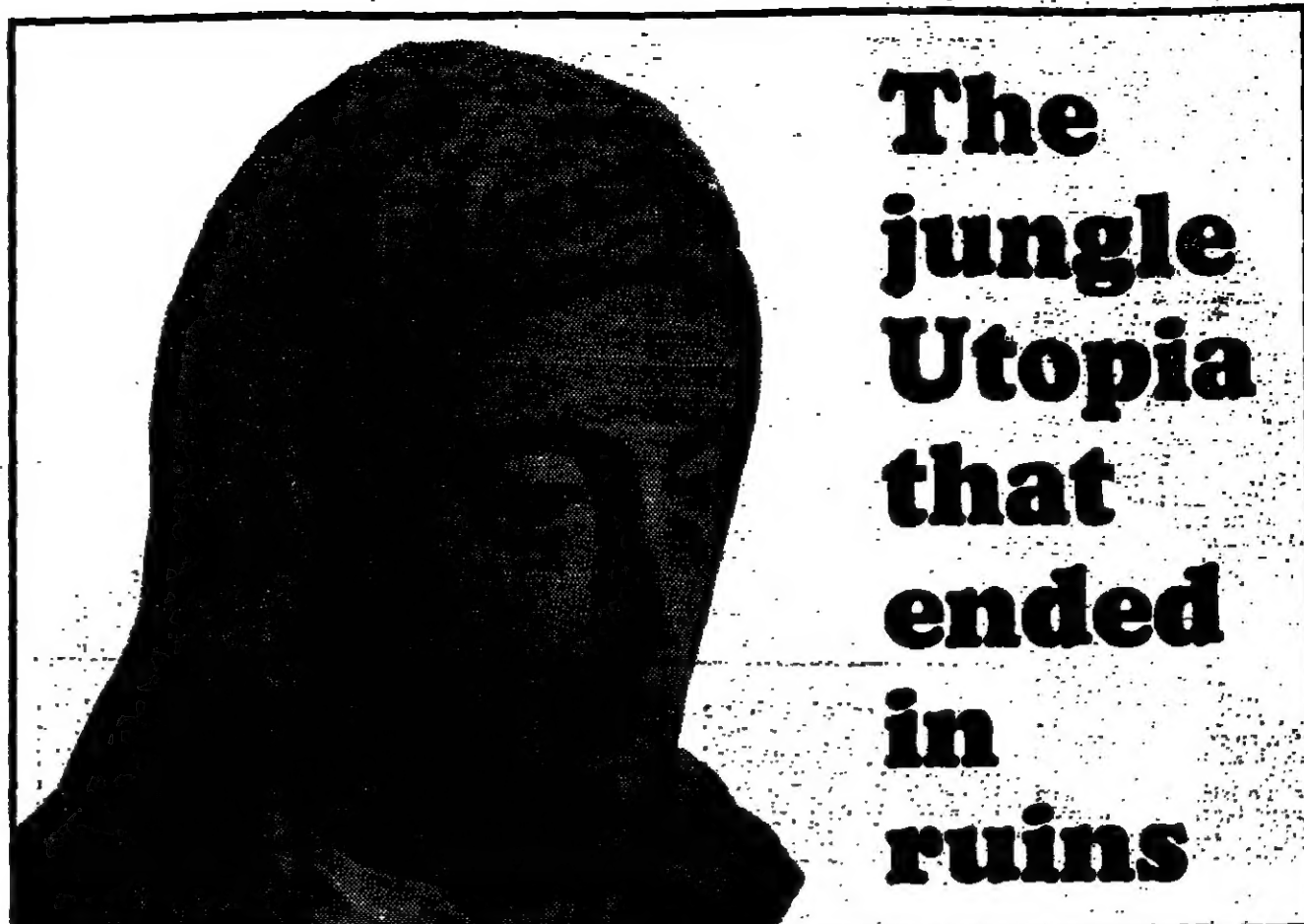
Inside the Jesuit "reductions" the Indians were taught (in their own languages) to be musicians, carpenters, sculptors, painters, printers and builders. Although each family had a small plot of land, the emphasis was always on communal production.

The visionary, utopian nature of the Jesuit enterprise in South America has for long been one of the marvels of the Western world, inviting generally favourable comment from a lengthy list of European essayists and historians in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries — from Voltaire to Robert Southey, from Cunningham Graham to G. K. Chesterton.

But even at the time there was considerable intellectual hostility to the enterprise, and in recent decades there has been fierce debate — chiefly in France and Brazil — about the real nature of the Jesuit experiment in Paraguay. Was it really utopian communism, or was it authoritarian dictatorship?

A Brazilian film, *Mission*, directed by Silvio Back and shown in London last year, seemed to suggest — with some evidence — that in many ways the Indians were worse off after a century of Jesuit influence and control than they were before.

Now the debate is to reopen here with the showing tomorrow (BBC 1, 7.45) of a television version of Frits Hochwälder's play (first staged in the 1980s), *The Strong Arm of the Law*, translated to the small screen as *The Holy Experiment*. Hochwälder's story is a fictionalised account of the dramatic ending of the Jesuit



BAROQUE ACHIEVEMENT: 18th-century Indian sculpture of the Virgin at the Jesuit reduction of San Ignacio Guazu in central Paraguay

With a new television version of Hochwälder's play about the last days of the great Jesuit missions in South America, the fierce debate on their true role will be revived. Richard Gott examines the arguments

matic ending of the Jesuit missions in the 1700s. Quite suddenly, largely as a result of developments in Europe, the King of Spain ordered all Jesuits out of Latin America. A few years later, the Jesuit Order itself was suppressed by the Pope. The priests were forced to abandon their ambitious project and were deported to Europe, leaving the Indians to fend for themselves.

Within a few years the state of permanent decline, characterised by the Jesuits as a "reduction" of the church, was divided up, and in the wars of independence at the beginning of the nineteenth century, as Paraguay and Uruguay fought for their right to exist, and Brazil and

Argentina battled their way towards permanent frontiers, "the Jesuit Republic of Paraguay" and its population was for the most part physically destroyed. The loving care, the inspiration, and the dedication of decades proved to have been in vain. All that remains today are magnificent and intriguing ruins in the jungle.

Contemporary interest in the Paraguayan experiment focuses on the way that the Jesuits coped with the clash of cultures — the Spanish First World invading, superior, imposing itself, and eventually conquering the Indian Third World.

For the Jesuits represented the progressive face of Spanish imperialism. They were the foreign aid workers, the voluntary service overseas, the Peace Corps, the developmentists, the Oxfam of their time, seeking to temper the fierce passion of the Spaniards for gold and profit by emphasising the needs and rights of the Indians. Almost from the beginning they were fighting a losing battle.

But how was the catastrophe of 1767 allowed to occur? For whatever conclusion one comes to about the true nature of the mission towns, no one doubts that the Indians under Jesuit control were better off than those subjected to virtual slavery by the white settlers from Spain and Portugal. The sudden departure of the Jesuits was an unmitigated disaster.

Hochwälder's play firmly places the blame on the Jesuits themselves. Their vow of absolute obedience to their Superior, which had seen them safely through 200 years of purposeful colonial activity, proved to be their Achilles' heel. For when Jesuit headquarters in Rome saw (perhaps mistakenly) that the future of the entire Order depended on the liquidation of the missions in Paraguay, they did not hesitate to make the necessary command — in spite of the remonstrations of the men on the spot.

The drama in Hochwälder's play comes when the Jesuit plenipotentiary from Europe orders the local Father Provincial to obey the Royal edict — against his better judgment. The Paraguayan Jesuits have

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an Indian army more powerful than that of the local Spanish garrisons. How can they abandon the work of generations meekly and without a fight? But they have vowed always "to obey."

Lorenzo Queriel, the sinister Jesuit in the play who brings the fatal order from Europe, had a parallel in real life, though the Luis story of Father who forced the Jesuits to withdraw from their seven "reductions" in what is now Rio Grande do Sul, is taken from an earlier episode in Paraguayan history.

At that time the Spanish kings had smiled on the Jesuit reductions. To the imperial monarchs in Madrid the Jesuits must have seemed a God-given instrument. It enabled them to make good their development of the native inhabitants, without unduly interfering with the rights of the Spanish colonists to exploitation for all outside the reductions for all the work, employing them (effectively as slaves) on the land and in the mines.

In addition the missions had a useful military role, as "strategic hamlets" protecting Spanish imperial frontiers with Portugal, and providing troops to put down revolts in the Spanish colonial towns.

The contradictions in their role do not seem to have particularly exercised the Jesuits, who looked forward to man the frontiers of empire.

By any standard their achievement was stupendous. They built immense baroque churches in wood and stone, constructed organs, harpsichords, and other musical instruments, carved and painted, produced dictionaries in Indian languages, and, at the same time, controlled vast farmlands. In Domestica Zepi, once a pupil of Scarlatti, they possessed one of the great musical talents of the New World.

But in the end, as others in that continent were to discover, more powerful than their own, they found that they had ploughed the sea. When events in Europe caused the Jesuits to fall into disavour, the utopian Kingdom of God in Paraguay was abandoned to decay in the hands of the Jesuits.

Last week, a fascinating the history of a practice of visiting America and asking "can it happen here?" The latest questions, and particularly pertinent in view of British prison-building, were asked in a series of lectures by David Harding's *Busted Alive* (Radio 4, Sunday and Wednesday), which visited two American prisons.

The old frictions are sometimes moved abroad (Ant Wiedersehen Pet, Duty Free). But whatever established writers do to break out only helps to prove that the sitcom is a clapped out form. If only we would all stop watching it, it might go away. Except that I bet that as we all watch the Hancock Omnibus next week, someone is going to say: "That's how you do it."

Richard Gott

Richard Gott

Richard Gott

Family fun or hollow laughs?

Hugh Hebert finds precious little to chuckle at in the new sitcoms

YOU CHECK the week's schedules and think that perhaps this time it will be a bucket of laughs, or at least a pint of chuckles. True, there's the decline and fall of *British Empire* and uncounted questions about warm surrogate mothers and deep frozen babies — you know the sort of thing. Can we afford to defrost one? Boy or girl? Vanilla or chocolate?

And in between almost everything else, there is snooker. Man searches his screen for enlightenment and fun, and what he gets is rainbow coloured balls and hustler's crouch. Never mind, you think, this week there are three brand-new comedy series. All you need do is wait.

Last night it was *Home to Roost* (Yorkshire). Father opens his door and but effective moment, the hole in the screen for years on the threshold, expect-

ing bed, board, and sympathy, the "Hello Dad" bearing, when what do-ers is the iron elbow and the cold shoulder.

What the father (John Thaw) can't forgive is that the son (Reece Dinsdale) chose to live with his mother and step-dad rather than his blood sire. Something to do with the quantity of sweets provided. The last must go. But we know the father's dilemma, because it is situation comedy and there are six more episodes (at least) to come.

This is the briskest, much the best-acted, and in its way the sharpest of this week's new sitcoms. Eric Chappell's dialogue jinks along swiftly and he is no tenderfoot in this area, with *Biting Damp*. Only *I Laugh*, and *Duty Free* to his name. There is even a stagey but effective moment, the hole in the screen for years on the threshold, expect-

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stopped and the boy, whose nasty temper has been signalled, suddenly threatens his bullying parent with a knife. Maybe all we have to do is wait. The difficulty is not seeing the jokes, but laughing at them. Maybe it will all be different.

Except that it isn't. On Monday we had the first episode of *Richard O'Manney's Three Up, Two Down* (BBC1). Females Couple with new husband, let's say, and fast to value cash. Sister husband's father, Michael Elphick, and wife's mother, Angela Thorne, offering aid. Who gets the grumpy, fat? Since they detest each other, they are certain to share it: this is situation comedy.

Of course, for subtle variation, on Monday you also had *Roy Clarke's Man's Best Friend* (C4), the third of this week's new comedy series. There it wasn't a case of unwelcome relative

the 100 Club bore testimony too.

He exercised this magic on a succession of succinct themes, all of which came out spangled and bejewelled with Grapelli's trade marks of tantalising, enigmatic intro, arching octave leaps, dancing runs, galloping swing and cheeky scales, which frequently wind up with a mischievous, what-did-you-think-of-that bravura. Grapelli is also ingenious at wrapping big things in small packages.

His single, spooky yelp after Martin Taylor's thoughtful guitar solo on *Let's Fall In Love*, very heavy upstaged every other statement on the subject, and the authentic lonesome-whistle sound, with which he wrapped up *Chattanooga Choo Choo* did likewise. At the end of the first set, Grapelli transposed *Someone To Watch Over Me* into *Who Could Ask For Anything More* as if surprised to find it there.

Paris in the Twenties, a commission from the Princess de Polignac (née Singer of the sewing-machine family) which delivers deeper than toy-like brightness might suggest.

It was just the right work to be included in the London Sinfonietta's current series of Beethoven concerts, particularly when a conductor as charismatic as Simon Rattle was on hand to draw from the Sinfonietta, playing of the finest colour and point. Even more happily than in the Hampstead Concert of very much the same period, Rattle here makes a tiny amalgam of Spanish and neoclassical flavours.

Carli MacDonald provided the shadow puppets and scenery, crisply projected on back screens. Sets and costumes were Rae Smith. Edie Ross, with her sply boyish soprano, was the most positive of the soloists. Ian Caley projected equally well as Maese Pedro, but Stephen Roberts' baritone was hardly firm enough for Quixote, falling to rise to the climax of the final monologue.

The first half brought a delectably pointed account of Dvorak's *Wind Serenade*, Opus 44, rhythmically far more subtle than any performance without conductor, and demonstrating the pure joy of the piece. Strauss's *Suite, Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, like the Falla work neglected because of its very form and scale, again found Rattle and the Sinfonietta in exuberant form, providing a fascinating contrast in neoclassicism, for once not seeming over-inflated. The Falla and Dvorak will be repeated at lunchtime today.

London Sinfonietta

WATFORD

Michael Billington

Lulu

HOW does one play Wedekind's *Lulu* in English? In its vision of human life as a menagerie filled with savage and grotesque predators, it anticipates the work of hard-edged visual artists like Max Beckmann and George Grosz.

We can accommodate the bourgeois tragedy of Ibsen and Chekhov. But Wedekind's erotic Expressionism is totally alien; and, on the rare occasions when I see *Lulu* (as the double drama of *Earth Spirit* and Pandora's Box is known) on a native stage I often have the impression of pussy cats pretending to be tigers.

Leon Rubin's new production (based on a translation by Peter Tegel) at the Palace Theatre, Watford, is no exception. All the proceedings are difficultly there: a whip crackling ringmaster introducing us to the bare-fanged human animals, a set with blood-red doors looming out of blackness, a roving spotlight tracing the characters and a hint of the bizarre in the somersaulting strong man (Jeffrey Guyton) and *Lulu*'s small, scuttling pseudo-father (David Rappaport). But the essential problem is that Wedekind strips his characters down until they are

100 CLUB

John Fordham

Stephan Grapelli

THE MOBILE bird-like aspect of the violinist Stephan Grapelli remains one of the enduring charms of jazz, and his demeanour and music catapult listeners of all ages into visions of the Paris of the 1930s, as surely as if he possessed the gift of travelling in time.

Grapelli is 77 now, and the only clear evidence of advancing years is that he now sits down to play. At the 100 Club, he played with the simple accompaniment of rhythm and lead guitars and a bass player — an appropriately delicate all-string setting for the old maestro's fragile and sophisticated music.

Grapelli's is one of jazz's great lyricists — a quality unmistakable from even a handful of notes, and which puts him firmly in the hall of fame of the legendary 1930s jazz rhapsodists that include Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young and Johnny Hodges. This genius at the re-working of popular song has made Grapelli a perennial favourite as the age range at

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THE DINNER PARTY

Judy Chicago

Judy Chicago

THE FIRST EXQUISITE AND INNOVATIVE EMERGENCY, EXTRAORDINARY CELEBRATION AND DINNER PARTY, A FEAST IN HONOUR OF WOMEN THROUGH THE AGES. THE DINNER PARTY IS NOW IN LONDON. THE WAREHOUSE. 18-21 WHITE LION ST, ISLINGTON, N.1. MARCH 1ST - MAY 25TH 1985. TELEPHONE ENCLAVE 276111. ADVANCE P93 276111P4PM SUN. TELEPHONE ENCLAVE 276111. ADVANCE P93 276111P4PM SUN. TELEPHONE ENCLAVE 276111. ADVANCE P93 276111P4PM SUN.

RICHARD THOMPSON

A NEW ALBUM & CASSETTE

ON TOUR

DATE	TIME	VENUE
APRIL 26th	7.30	Donington, London
MAY 7th	7.30	Nottingham, University of East Anglia
MAY 14th	7.30	Leeds, Town Hall
MAY 21st	7.30	Edinburgh, Queen's Hall
MAY 28th	7.30	Widnes, Renshaw Centre
JUNE 4th	7.30	Somerset, Arts Centre

ACROSS A CROWDED ROOM

WEEK-END PEOPLE

TO THE business world, Harold Geneen is the British-born genius who built International Telephone and Telegraph into the most extensive conglomerate in the world. In his 13 years as chief executive, ITT acquired 350 companies. Profits leapt to \$22 billion a year.

His philosophy was simple. "You start with the end and then you do everything you must to reach it," he writes in his guide for aspiring executives, *Managing* (published by Granada, £7.95).

He concludes: "When all is said and done a company, its chief executive, and his whole management team are judged by one criterion alone — performance."

The general public, however, is still apt to judge ITT by one criteria alone. Chile. It was one of several scandals during Geneen's rule from 1959-77. The Watergate break-in, it was claimed, was a search for damaging material to counter revelations about ITT's alleged payments to the Republican Party during a protracted anti-trust case.

Geneen was summoned before a Senate sub-committee after one of his officials, a former director of the CIA, admitted that ITT offered the US Government a seven-figure sum to finance a political coalition to block the election of Dr Salvador Allende, Chile's Marxist President. The company maintained it was to finance public housing in Chile and won Allende's goodwill.

At 75, Geneen is an affable and persuasive talker, employing a folksy, tickertape delivery reminiscent of Victor Kiam selling a Remington razor. He does not resemble the dealer in fear depicted by Anthony Sampson in his study of ITT, *The Sovereign State*. Six years out of high office and a reported golden handshake of \$5 million have possibly mellowed him.

I asked him about Chile, which is not mentioned once in his book. "Our problem was very simple, Stuart. We have \$150 million company there. They just wanted to take it away and not pay us. We had a history of this kind of problem. I wasn't six months with the company before Batista and his group took our Cuban telephone company. Then we went through the



GENEEN: nothing illegal

The telephone man

same thing with the Brazilians, the Mexicans and the Peruvians.

"We would fight and argue. Generally speaking, we'd get some satisfaction, but when the Communists took them over we never got a nickel back. I worked for the stockholders. I wasn't interested in politics at all. We went through half a dozen hearings in Washington. Nothing was illegal that we did."

He paused. And? "And that was the way it went. That's absolutely true. We got a lot of sweat out of it. I think a lot of it was from... I don't know if you'd call them liberal people. We were cleared and that was the end of it. We got a lot of publicity but it could have been written up the other way. They could say 'Hell,

there's a perfectly sound company. I figure we put \$7 million in that company for every dollar we took out."

He began to chuckle. "Finally we got paid, I'll say that. We had insurance with the American Government. We got paid our book value. But that's a perfectly legitimate thing."

But with its history of this kind of problem, hadn't ITT a contingency plan? "Well, our contingency plan was to keep wrestling and fighting and trying to get our Government to help us. And finally it worked, that's all. Finally he was thrown out, really. We didn't throw him out."

Had the White House become an annex of ITT, as its critics claim? His chuckles were now coming thick and fast. "No, no, no. If it

were we wouldn't have had the problems we did." (A reference to the anti-trust suits against ITT.)

"It's kinda funny, in the middle of all this, Allende asked our people to check out his lines to make sure they weren't bugged. We went along and checked them out for him. This brought forth a fresh gale of mirth."

Indelible smudges remain on the face. Cases were prepared against lesser ITT officials for lying to a senate investigating committee. These were withdrawn in 1979 when the Justice Department expressed the fear that national secrets might be revealed at the trial.

In retrospect, Geneen sees the expropriation of the Cuban Telephone Company as a blessing in disguise. "It

kinda woke us up. That was one of our biggest companies. And overnight it just go Bing!"

It alerted him to the fact that ITT was dependent on 85 per cent of its revenue from overseas. In a bid to increase domestic earnings to 50 per cent he embarked on a crash programme of acquisitions in the United States. ITT swallowed Sheraton Hotels, Avis, Hartford Fire Insurance and Continental Baking. To keep Hartford, ITT was forced to shed Avis.

"There were times when we were buying a company a day. None of them were hostile acquisitions. They were all available for some reason—they had reached saturation point in their mind or the management got older. So we took 'em over and made 'em grow."

He developed a new management system of open communications. Officials from all ITT's subsidiaries came face to face once a month at week-long meetings in New York and Brussels. These consumed nine years of his life.

The thorn in his side was the Justice Department's anti-trust division, which opposed two notable bids, the ABC chain and Hartford Fire. "They wouldn't let us buy two of anything. If you wanted to buy a number one company their line of argument was that you were destroying competition; you should go buy the number two company to compete with number one."

Geneen denies that conglomerates are abhorrent. To him, business is good business, good for American clout and shelter for subsidiaries in adverse climates — "We carried our losers."

Wasn't there a limit to growth? Only his own ability to master the essential data, says Geneen — "the Geneen Machine" who at one point held titles as ITT's president, chief executive and chairman. "If I had to do it over again I think I would have tried to buy less companies and bigger ones."

He was born in Bourne, Massachusetts, was a light opera singer and his Russian father, a touring impresario. A series of events in his youth appear to have forged his mental toughness. His parents separated when he was three, and he was sent to a strict convent boarding school. His father went bankrupt over a land deal shortly before Geneen junior, a page at the New York Stock Exchange, witnessed the Wall Street crash (he lost \$200,000 savings in a bank account).

He denies that he was a tough boss. "Anthony Sampson writes that everybody at ITT had bloodshot eyes, broken homes and were drinking because we beat 'em up excessively. Well, that's not exactly true. The only people I had no use for were people who didn't wanna work and people who tried to be politicians. Other than that, you learn over backwards, even to carry them on your shoulders."

He has his fans. Peru has awarded him the Order of Merit for Distinguished Service. The call from Chile may take a little longer.



YOUNG: time to throw the bombs away

The border of friendship

IN 1945 Henry Young, equipped with a jeep and a revolver, was rounding up Nazis in Germany. Many of his visits were to industrialists, who reacted to the Intelligence sergeant's enquiries with shocked denials. One day he encountered two German soldiers who asked for guns in order to fight alongside the Allies against the Russians. He reckons it was the day the Cold War began.

On Thursday Henry Young (70), a member of Ex-Services CND, will be in Torgau, East Germany, to join retired American GIs and former Russian troops at the point on the River Elbe where they met as fighting allies 40 years ago.

As a member of the British Army, Young did not witness the original encounter, but considered the gesture important. "The basic principle is to make peace," he said. "The two sides have got so many faults and so many nice things, there's no reason they should throw nuclear weapons at each other."

He has more to forgive than most. He is a German Jew who was arrested in 1933 — the year Hitler came to power — as a member of the Young Communist League. The pretext was implication in the Reichstag fire. He was one of the first to be interned in the concentration camp at Hohenstein in Saxony.

Thanks to his mother's strenuous intervention he was released the following year. He taught unarmed combat at the Bar-Kochbar

Jewish sports club in Dresden. He was re-arrested in 1938 along with every male Jew in the town aged 17-70. Again he was released, on condition that he left the country. "I left Germany on September 3, 1939, five hours after war was declared."

After six weeks in Holland he came to Britain and was trained as an anti-tank bombardier. On his recruiters' advice, he changed his name from Weinberg to Young. In 1944 he helped to transport 2,000 surplus German POWs to North Africa before joining the troops liberating Belgium.

It was in Brussels, three weeks ago, that he was arrested after placing three posters outside the American Embassy in protest against the government's decision to accept cruise missiles. He claims he was kept in a cell without food all day, during which his requests for his heart pills were ignored.

Why, I asked, was he eager to shake hands with Russian troops when the Soviet Union is in the dock for anti-Semitism? "I have no intention of joining people who condemn the Soviet Union for the treatment of Jews," he said. "Jews have the ability to advance in the Soviet Union. I have many friends in East Germany who are reasonably happy. The US administration is full of anti-Semites. Just as we have an official at the Board of Trade who is an ex-fascist."

He also took a side-swipe at Simon Wiesenthal's defence of the unnamed Sakharov. All very confusing.



TRIPPIER: reaching for it

Tips of a Tory

THE throw-away society turned up a Minister of Waste this week, prompting Opposition remarks that the post was an empty gesture that would not recover the estimated £750 million in lost waste every year. Jonathan Porritt, of Friends of the Earth, complained that the appointee had no budget, no mandate and came from the wrong department (Trade instead of Environment).

"He would wouldn't he? commented the new Minister, David Trippier, at his Department of Trade office. "There's nothing that one could do, at the end of the day, that would please him and his colleagues."

Trippier (42) has actually been handling rubbish for two years. The only difference is that he will co-ordinate the efforts of Trade, Environment and Energy, presumably on recycled triplicate sheets. He repeated the familiar Government line that he wants to encourage rather than compel.

"I don't want to go in with heavy boots and say

this is what we want you to do," he said. "That would be alien to our philosophy."

There are two interesting facts about Trippier. The first is that while he has a hand in waste, his feet are planted firmly in human dereliction. His main role will continue to be Minister for Small Businesses. Since his proteges are still spitting teeth after the last Budget, it could be said that both rubbish and traders are finding their level in the marketplace.

But the second interesting fact about him is that he is an unusual Conservative. He may look like a stockbroker — which he was — but it was his caring face, topped by Brylcreem, which was chosen to cheer up Maggie's team photographs after he dramatically reversed his constituency's ill fortunes.

In 1980, less than a year after joining the Commons, he launched an effective campaign for textile import quotas. Half of his constituents in Rossendale, Lancs, were in textiles and shoes. A renewed multi-fibre arrangement reduced the drought. But local unemployment had quadrupled to the highest in Britain at 19.1 per cent.

"These people started work at 14. They were members of trade unions that were very responsible, having never been on strike in living memory. Yet they were still losing their jobs. I knew it wasn't their fault. Everyone blames the Government. Management blamed everybody else except themselves. I realised that something had to be done."

With the help of local industrialists, he started the Rossendale Enterprise Trust, based on the St Helen's Trust. "As a result of its success, and starting up so many new firms, we have reduced unemployment by about a third. It's the most dramatic cut in unemployment in the UK. I'm not pretending it's enough. We still need to do a lot more."

Rossendale has been a model for the 241 local enterprise agencies he has set up since becoming a Minister in 1983. Their merits are debatable, but Trippier will more probably go down in the history books as the MP responsible for limiting backbenchers' speeches to 10 minutes. Private Eye declared that he deserved the undying gratitude of the nation.



BUFFERY: keeping Pravda's secrets

Kate with a Hare and the hounds

DAVID Hare has put a soft muzzle on the cast of *Pravda*, A Fleet Street Comedy (previewing at the Olivier Theatre on Friday) perhaps fearing that journalism's sensitive hyenas and jackals will start barking up the wrong tree. Poison headlines could loom — "Sringvestia, A Tissue of Lies."

Hare, who co-authored the play with Howard Brenton, suggested in the Guardian's arts page last month that it examined why newspapers were so willing to get into

bed with government. This was plainly misinformation, for when I repeated it to Kate Buffery she looked blank and said it wasn't really about newspapers at all.

One of the things it's about is the Machiavellian personality," said Ms Buffery, who admitted to playing the daughter of a newspaper proprietor. "There are people with masses of charisma who say 'I'm a shit, but I'm honest,' I find all that fascinating."

Quite, but it still sounds like journalism. What did she think of the press? Ms Buffery, an accomplished RSC actress doing her first National service, and would not be drawn. She had learned to read between the lines, she said.

She has a twin sister, plus three younger sisters and an elder brother. Her twin is a pianist-flautist who stared up at her from the Globe's pit when she was playing the head girl in *Daisy Fuls*. R. Off.

"We're not identical. When we were little I was always the one who wanted to be in the school play and she was always 20 grades above me at the flute."

Living in Cambridge, the daughter of an architect, she took part in several productions by the university's dramatic societies after performing at the National Theatre. RADA led to rep and then the RSC, where she appeared in *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Merchant of Venice*, *The Party* and *Golden Girls*.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN 1960

APRIL 20: Humansdorp, Cape Province, April 19. Mr Paul Sauer, Minister of Lands, and senior South African Cabinet member (deputising for Dr Verwoerd, who was in hospital after having been shot), said here today: "We must create a new spirit to restore overseas faith in South Africa."

Speaking at celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Union, he added: "There must be an important change in the practical application of Government policy, although it will not

mean a deviation from set policy."

Mr Sauer said "the old book" of South African history had closed at Sharpeville. The African must be given hope for a happy existence and the feeling of frustration should be removed.

APRIL 21: Our Commonwealth Correspondent Johannesburg, April 20. An unanswered question tonight commands the interest of every practising politician in South Africa. Is the "wind of change" beginning to blow at last even in the Nationalist party?

The Sauer speech coincided with the decision — presumably also attributable to Mr Sauer — that the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Hammarskjöld should be

welcome to come to South Africa this summer at a time to be mutually arranged.

APRIL 22: The spate of talk about slanting the education of girls towards training for marriage and motherhood was condemned as "degrading" yesterday by a woman teacher.

Miss H. Cottam, of Bedfordshire, told the annual conference of the National Union of Women Teachers at Buxton that the new emphasis on training for marriage made it appear that girls were "just filling in time until they are snapped up on the marriage market."

The conference passed a resolution demanding equal opportunities for girls and women to train and work in jobs of their own choice. Miss Cottam, after arguing a

case for equal opportunities in training, said:

"We are not asking for girls to become big business tycoons. All we ask is that they should have the right to choose the type of work they want to do so that they can do it well and enjoy it, and the right, if their work merits it, to the same opportunity for advancement as their male colleagues."

APRIL 23: Poor Yorick? At least he never had to tour. If he had, the king's jester would have been the first to see the need for a science of laughter chair to start with — that would discover and document regional senses of humour for the benefit of provincial jesters.

Like many other comedians, Mr Ken, Dodd of the

mop-hair, wondrous eyes and toothful grin, soon learned how little science had to offer him when he forsook detergent selling and the invention of sweet-smelling devices for the variety stage six years ago.

He delved into Schopenhauer and Kant. He went through Freud; he unearthed every theory he could find dealing with the nature of laughter. But he could find nothing to help "a working humorist." So he set about helping himself, not with theories but with practice.

APRIL 25: Tunis, April 24. President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia warned France today that his country was "capable of successfully conducting a war if she is obliged to do so by aggressions."

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Alan Beth, MP, 42; Frederick Darwent, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, 55; Eddie Kinkaid, shipwrecking impresario, 53; Ryan O'Neal and Leslie Phillips, actors, 44 and 61; Henry Wong, general administrator, Barbican Centre, 55.

TOMORROW: HM The Queen, 59; Sir Lawrence Gowing, Slade professor of fine art, London, 68; John McCabe, composer, pianist, 46; Silvana Mangano, actress, 55; Angela Mortimer, tennis player, 53; John Mortimer, playwright, 62; Norman Parkinson, photographer, 72; Anthony Quinn, actor, 70; Donald Snelgrove, Bishop of Hull, 60.

MONDAY: Leo Abse, MP, 68; Glen Campbell, country

singer, 47; George Cole, actor, 60; Dr Eric Feny, Debus's amanuensis, 79; Peter Frampton, rock singer, 35; Ronald Hymn, choreographer, 64; Hugh Lloyd, actor, 62; Yehudi Menuhin, violinist, 68; Sir Sydney Nolan, OM, painter, 68.

TUESDAY: Shirley Temple Black, thirties' child film star, 57; Bill Cotton, managing director, BBC television, 67; Professor Glyn Daniel, archaeologist, 71; Sandra Dee, film actress, 43; J. P. Donleavy, novelist, playwright, 59; Earl of Drogheda, press and arts administrator, 75; James Kirke Paulding, poet, 1791-1861; Bernadette McAlliskey (née Devlin), Irish Republican, 38.

WEDNESDAY: Ralph Brown, sculptor, 57; Clement Freud, MP, 61; Shirley MacLaine, actress, 51; Brid-

get Riley, artist, 54; Barbara Streisand, singer, actress, 43; John Williams, guitarist, 44.

THURSDAY: Eric Burdon, darts player, 28; Sir John Gielgud, actor, manager, producer, 75; Ella Fitzgerald, jazz singer, 67; the Earl of Lichfield, photographer, 46; Buster Mottram, tennis player, 30; Dr John Nunn, British chess Grandmaster, 30; Al Pacino, and William Roache, actors, 45 and 53; David Shepherd, artist, naturalist, 54; Professor Graham Smith, Astronomer Royal, 62. FRIDAY: Carol Burnett, comedienne, 49; Charlie Coleman, comedian, 71; David Coleman, television sports commentator, presenter, 59; 47; Bernard Malamud, writer, 71; Sir Oliver Miller, writer, 62; Derek Waring, actor, 55.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

مكتبة الصلح

WEEKEND SPORT: THREE

SAILING

Bob Fisher

British go on Cup attack

There would appear this year to be a determined effort to retrieve the Admiral's Cup, and with it British standing in the world of ocean racing, by 23 owners and crews, many of whom are already engaged in training with new yachts in the Solent.

After the worst-ever result by a British team two years ago and further bad showings in the Southern Cross Cup in Australia and in the Sardinia Cup, this attack is most welcome.

This time the owners of the boats appear to have explored most avenues in search of speed in their yachts, seeking the best available designs from all over the world as there is no longer a single guru designer as so often in the past. The upsurge of young French designers has encouraged some of the more experienced owners to commission designs from them.

The team captain from last time, Graham Walker, will be completing the commissioning of his latest, Indulgence, to be designed by Daniel Andrieu, this week's winner of the Rolex Cup. Walker has been racing his former runner, Citrine 3, with considerable success in the early trials organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club.

Further French influence is evident in the two Jean Berthoulli-designed gaffer ships, Fair Lady and Rubber Duck, while another successful French designer, Philippe Briand, who won the Half Ton Cup last year in Scotland, has drawn the new Panda for Peter Whipp. It was prematurely launched this week and returned to the builder for completion but will have America's Cup skipper Lewis Smith as helmsman.

One of the first of the new boats to be launched was Robin Asher's Yeoman XCV, launched in the last week of last year to take advantage of the 1984 measurement regulations. Asher, a former British team captain, has made a strong effort this time but in last weekend's squally conditions was unfortunate to lose the most of this 40-footer designed by the Hambro-based Tony Castro.

Another British team captain in the fray is Chris Dunning with the ninth of his boats to take the name Marionette. This one is of the combination of talents of Ed Dubois and Bob Humphreys and will be skippered by the only British medal winner at the last Olympics, at the helm.

Chris Law, fourth in the Soling class at those Games, steers another Castro design, Purla, owned by Yorkshireman Geoff Farnell. He will have his own rivalry with Phil Crebbin — both of them were on the Victory Campaign — in Martin Gibson's Pocket Battleship, another of those to have lost a mast this season. The observed selection trials begin in June but there are regular weekend trials until then with coaching input from the RYA's chief coach Rod Carr.

Graham Gooch, the Essex and England batsman who has just completed a three-year Test suspension after going on the rebel cricket tour to South Africa, has said in an interview for the April 24 "Sportlight" on BBC: "I would like to play for England again. I have always wanted to play for my country. But if I have to decide on whether or not I should go to South Africa, as I had to three years ago, I would still make exactly the same decision."

David Frost on today's Wales v England match

Young ones hold the Cardiff key



TODAY'S Wales v England match at Cardiff, postponed from February 18, will now decide nothing more than third place in the Five Nations table — but both sides have so much to prove that it could well turn out to be one of the best games of the season.

Wales have suffered an unprecedented four consecutive home defeats and will be keen not only to end that sequence but also to prove that they can still play the traditional rugby worthy of their traditions.

For England there is the dominating thought that they have not won at Cardiff since 1953. They would also like to have a victory over Wales behind them when they set off next month for their seven-match tour of New Zealand.

Three of England's backs — Rob Andrew, Kevin Simms, and Rory Underwood — have not been until after England's last victory at Cardiff. Oddly for such a youthful England side, Andrew and Simms have more international experience than the men playing opposite them, Jonathan Davies and Kevin Hopkins, who will be winning their first caps today.

Wales have a third new cap in Phil Davies at No. 8, and it is surely to England's advantage that Terry Holmes will be operating with a No. 5 and a stand-off half with whom he is unfamiliar. Nevertheless Holmes is the man England will have to watch most closely.

England's captain, Paul Dodge, making his fourth appearance in an international at Cardiff, said "this place owes me something. So far I have a draw, a narrow defeat, by two points, and a 27-3 thrashing to show for my visits here. Now perhaps it is my turn."

Certainly England have not had a bad season. They were beaten in their first match, beat Scotland, and lost narrowly to Ireland, the champions, in Dublin

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DODGE

SNOOKER

Clive Everton

White is in right frame of mind

Jimmy White, who beat his boyhood friend Tony Meo 13-11 to reach the quarter-finals of the Embassy World Championship at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre yesterday, was at 16 the youngest ever English amateur champion and, at 18, the youngest world amateur champion.

White cannot become the youngest world professional champion as he will be 17 days older on this year's final day than Alex Higgins was in 1972 when the then 22-year-old Irishman triumphed. But White form keeps him emphatically in contention for snooker's richest first prize of £20,000.

Meo, meanwhile, lamented his defeat: "I lost two bad games on Thursday night," he said. The more serious was the last of the session when he left the snooker in the jaws of the pocket to give White a 9-7 overnight lead which he improved to 11-8 and 5-8 before Meo replied with a break of 58 and went on to win that frame.

White's break of 77 put him three up with four to play at 12-9, but his break of 40 in the next ended through oversteering. Meo compiled 66 to level the match, but White, with a break of 51 and pressed towards 12-12 through leading 35-0.

Many would have wilted under this pressure but White responded with 78 to clinch the match and a 1-0 lead.

White's quarter-final opponent will be Tony Knowles, who completed his 13-6 victory over Doug Mountjoy by winning the morning's three frames. He took the first of these on the black and recovered no further significant resistance before delivering the knock-out in the form of a break of 75, his eighth run over 50.

Overall, the No. 2 seed was impressively confident and relaxed. He acknowledged that publication of his sexual memoirs during last year's championship — for which the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association fined him £5,000 for bringing the game into disrepute — had not helped his performance in losing them to a qualifier, John Parrott.

"There's enough pressure without that," said Knowles. "I didn't really want to do them but they came about."

This year Knowles' chances are none the worse for being kept a much lower profile. He has not won a title since the Windfield Masters in Sydney in June, but, as he says: "I've been in two finals and I've not done too badly."

Terry Griffiths, who led Alex Higgins 5-3 overnight yesterday lost the first frame on the black and the second as well but then won four frames in a row, a 48 clearance to the pink in the third frame of this sequence appearing particularly important.

Higgins recovered to 6-9 and led 50-9 in the last frame of the morning as he strove to limit his deficit to 7-9 going into last night's final session. Griffiths overtook him with 51, misused on the last red but, after some exciting looting and fruiting, posted most of the colours to lead 10-6.

Patsy Fagan, now looking something like the player who reached the 1978 quarter-finals before spending several years in the wilderness, followed his defeat of the No. 12 seed, Willie Thorne, by three times leading Ray Reardon by the odd frame.

A 50 clearance gave him the seventh from 6-3, but the six-time world champion levelled at 4-4 overnight.

Brian Wilson



CHESS

Leonard Barden

TONY MILES is seeded fifth for four to qualify for the candidates tournament, at the Tunisian international from next Friday, April 28 to May 21. The four men ranked ahead of Miles are Belavsky and Yusupov of the USSR, Portisch of Hungary, and Nikolic of Yugoslavia. On his best form such as his victory at Tbilisi in 1981, Miles can qualify as Britain's first ever candidate in spite of recent variable results.

But the firm favourite is Belavsky, whose flair and energy have brought several wide margin tournament victories and who lost only to Kasparov in the last world title match. Soviet sources claim that Belavsky is a PE teacher who likes all outdoor sports, especially skiing. Nobody on the chess circuit believes it polite, elegant and soft spoken. Belavsky is among the best liked of the Soviet grandmasters. At the last world title match, he lost to Kasparov because of a delayed hospital appointment. Belavsky wanted to share the 20 minutes which he gained on the clock.

His sharp aggressive style and readiness to play for the full point when black, is well illustrated by this brevity from the 1985 Wijk event.

GM Gort Listerink (Netherlands) 16
GM Alexander Beliavsky (USSR) 15
Queen's Indian Defence
(1) White 1. Nf3 2. Nc3 3. Bb5 4. Bxc6 5. Bxf7+ 6. Kxf7 7. Qc2 8. Qd3 9. Nf4 10. Nf5 11. Nf6 12. Nf7 13. Nf8 14. Nf9 15. Nf10 16. Nf11 17. Nf12 18. Nf13 19. Nf14 20. Nf15 21. Nf16 22. Nf17 23. Nf18 24. Nf19 25. Nf20 26. Nf21 27. Nf22 28. Nf23 29. Nf24 30. Nf25 31. Nf26 32. Nf27 33. Nf28 34. Nf29 35. Nf30 36. Nf31 37. Nf32 38. Nf33 39. Nf34 40. Nf35 41. Nf36 42. Nf37 43. Nf38 44. Nf39 45. Nf40 46. Nf41 47. Nf42 48. Nf43 49. Nf44 50. Nf45 51. Nf46 52. Nf47 53. Nf48 54. Nf49 55. Nf50 56. Nf51 57. Nf52 58. Nf53 59. Nf54 60. Nf55 61. Nf56 62. Nf57 63. Nf58 64. Nf59 65. Nf60 66. Nf61 67. Nf62 68. Nf63 69. Nf64 70. Nf65 71. Nf66 72. Nf67 73. Nf68 74. Nf69 75. Nf70 76. Nf71 77. Nf72 78. Nf73 79. Nf74 80. Nf75 81. Nf76 82. Nf77 83. Nf78 84. Nf79 85. Nf80 86. Nf81 87. Nf82 88. Nf83 89. Nf84 90. Nf85 91. Nf86 92. Nf87 93. Nf88 94. Nf89 95. Nf90 96. Nf91 97. Nf92 98. Nf93 99. Nf94 100. Nf95 101. Nf96 102. Nf97 103. Nf98 104. Nf99 105. Nf100 106. Nf101 107. Nf102 108. Nf103 109. Nf104 110. 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Dogma makes the camouflaged man play ducks and drakes with the dockyards



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Heseltine has consistently proved himself a man of resolution, whether in the Commons or clad in army camouflage at Moleworth but he altered his image to slip on Wednesday when questioned over his plan to contract out the management of the remaining Royal dockyards.

Mr Heseltine ducked any explanation of his claim that handing over the management of the Devonport and Rosyth yards to private contractors would lead to increased competition, and thus increased efficiency, in the

naval ship repair industry. The Defence Secretary's intransigence on this occasion was not surprising. He had, after all, already acknowledged that before any private firm tendered for the Devonport and Rosyth contracts, it would first have to be assured of a fixed portion of naval refit and repair work for a seven to ten year advance period.

This fact alone lends credence to the arguments of the Opposition parties, and above all, the defence trade unions, that Mr Heseltine's only goal in passing over the control of the two dockyards to the private sector is the enforcement of a conservative dogma, and the wish to prune the MoD's civil servant headcount by 20,000.

As the secretary of the MoD council of civil service unions, Mr Gerry Robson, said on Wednesday, before Mr Heseltine announced changes to the status of the dockyards to improve their efficiency, he should first have proved that they are inefficient.

Mr Robson's argument can be taken a step further. Mr Heseltine has produced no evidence to suggest that his proposal to contract out the

management of the yards will lead to any rise in efficiency at Rosyth and Devonport, or indeed, that there will be any subsequent cost benefit to the nation. Instead, his inability to justify his scheme has begged a number of worrying questions over the cost, in financial, social and security terms, of the Royal dockyards contract management plan.

Not that anyone, least of all the defence unions, should have been taken aback by the well-telegraphed plan to contract out the dockyards' management.

Contracting out has already proved a popular weapon for cutting the MoD payroll since the Conservatives came to power, and has been employed with increased vigour since Mr Heseltine's appointment.

Of the 73,000 jobs which have been pruned from the MoD over the past six years, at least half are reckoned to be attributable to work which has been contracted out to private firms, from cleaning and catering, to the service contract for Mimir.

At present, 22 studies are underway into hiring of a broad range of Royal Navy

administrative, clerical and stores functions to commercial contractors.

The defence unions claim that there has been insufficient evidence to indicate that any benefits have accrued from such partial privatisations, and argue that at a time when the Government has clamped down on the GCHQ unions in the proposed increase of security, it is simultaneously weakening its security shield by its contracting out programme.

Indeed, Mr Heseltine, in his anxiety to rush through the legislation to contract out the dockyards' management during the life of the present Government, has even decided against waiting for the findings of the pilot scheme set in train last autumn to monitor the bill's impact on the dockyards.

In October, two private yards were awarded the refit contracts for the Leander-type frigate, HMS Eurymachus, and the submarine, HMS Otter, and it was announced that they would be subjected to the same accounting procedures as the Royal dockyards.

Mr Heseltine has decided that it is unnecessary to dis-

cover whether, in practice, private yards can meet the Royal Navy's criteria before pushing ahead with his direct privatisation of the Royal dockyards.

It might be worth turning back to 1972 and the first, and last, occasion on which a Royal Navy refit contract was handed out to the private sector. Ironically, the vessel in question was again HMS Otter, refitted at a private yard due to the workload at the royal dockyards, with great reluctance by the MoD as both the cost, and the delivery period, were greatly in excess of those practised by the Royal docks.

Again in terms of cost, claims can be made that the taxpayer is being asked to pick up the charges of introducing 2,400 redundancies at Devonport and Rosyth ahead of the offer for tenders for the management contracts, with the job cuts being implemented in advance to make the contracts a more profitable proposition for private firms. The management contractors will also have the modest benefit of using MoD assets, the dockyard facilities, to earn their profits, and can anticipate that any capital spending needs will be met by the government at the same time.

There is also the fact that the commercial companies will expect to make healthy profit margins on naval repair work, at a cost to the public purse. The commercial pressures on outside contractors, the defence unions fear, could also lead to further shrinkages in the workforces at the two yards.

Ultimately, two factors about Mr Heseltine's prospectus for the Royal dockyards are indisputable. One is that even had the case been proved that the dockyards, with their high degree of absenteeism, are grossly inefficient, there are more options for their future than the Defence Secretary has chosen to put forward.

No examination has been thoroughly conducted of the efficiency gains which could be achieved while retaining the yards within the public sector. Nor have the possibilities of turning the dockyards into co-operatives, or encouraging worker buy-outs, two suggestions put forward by the MP for Plymouth Devonport, the SNP's David Owen, been investigated.

And, in its determination to forward its dogma of privatisation, the government has again sacrificed the principle of increased competition. The terms on which it can sell the management contracts for the dockyards can mean only that the private firms which run them enjoy a greater monopoly of naval repair and refit work than the dockyards if they were held within the public sector.

The self-same commercial pressures also raise doubts about the ability of private contractors to fulfil all naval needs. Over five per cent of the work carried out at Devonport, for example, consists of emergency repairs to ships damaged at sea, which are put into dock for immediate renovations to enable them to resume their patrol duties.

It is a little difficult to envisage private contractors scrapping work schedules to carry out on-the-spot repairs, except, of course, at a lucrative price.

Another area of concern is the ownership of the firms who will be allowed to bid for the dockyard contracts. The government, in its consultative document, has confined itself to saying that control remain in British hands, refusing to specify whether this means that the

contracts will be awarded only to UK-owned companies, or whether the plan that the assets of the dockyards themselves remain government-owned will satisfy their control criterion.

Even if the highly unlikely eventuality of the government which conducted the Falklands campaign allowing control of the naval repair yards to pass overseas, does not materialise, there is a more plausible probability of one or two companies becoming dominant in UK ship repairing, and even in ship repair and ship-building, combined.

One intriguing possibility is that a single private sector company could end up having the monopoly contract to build the Trident nuclear submarine programme and a monopoly contract to maintain Trident.

Trident will be serviced only at Rosyth, and will be built at the Vickers yard at Barrow-in-Furness, due to be privatised within the next 11 months. To date, no indications have been given that measures will be instituted to prevent the company, which buys Vickers from bidding for the Rosyth contract.

David Simpson

Fall in demand and overcapacity blamed

Courtaulds to shed 1,100 jobs in Wales

By Tony Heath and James Erlichman

The textiles industry received another heavy blow yesterday when Courtaulds, Britain's biggest manufacturer of clothing fibres and yarns, announced the closure of two factories in North Wales.

More than 1,100 jobs will be lost in Wrexham and at another Courtaulds plant between Holywell and Flint on the River Dee.

European demand for the cheap, but low quality fibres and yarns made at the plants has been dropping for a number of years and Courtaulds said yesterday it could no longer afford to sustain the losses caused by overcapacity. But Dr John Marek, Labour MP for Wrexham, described the closure as "devastating blow" and he will lead a deputation on Monday to persuade Courtaulds' chairman, Sir

Christopher Hogg

to reconsider. The chances of reversing the closure plan appear extremely slim. Courtaulds has shed more than 25,000 jobs since 1980 with the heaviest losses coming in the UK. The company only narrowly survived the recession and its profits in 1984 of £117.8 million are still less than it earned a decade ago on half the sales turnover.

The Wrexham plant, where 508 jobs will be lost, produces acetate yarns from cellulose wood pulp to make the cheaper grades of linings for coats and jackets. Courtaulds says the losses in the business are running at £2.1 million a year and it hopes the closure of two acetate yarn plants at Spondon, near Derby and Little Heath at Coventry.

The Dee side plant, where 595 jobs will disappear, makes viscose fibre, another cellulose filament which is commonly blended in cheaper cotton garments. A worldwide glut of cotton has made viscose less attractive and 232 jobs were shed from the plant last November. Courtaulds says its losses are running at £500,000 a month and it intends to concentrate production at its plant at Grimsby.

North Wales is still trying to recover from the closure of the Shotton steel works which cost 8,000 jobs.

Plessey, the telecommunications group, also announced yesterday that it will make 380 people redundant at its Seston plant in Nottingham.

Equipment at the plant was blamed for the cuts. Union leaders called for urgent talks and Plessey said it hoped to make the most of the cuts through voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

Lawson attacks jobless forecast

From Alex Brummer in Washington

THE CHANCELLOR, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday attacked IMF projections of high European unemployment as "absurd" but made it plain, once again, that Mrs Thatcher's Government would stand firm against the international community's demands for bringing the jobless rate down.

Speaking at a press conference at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund, the Chancellor argued that Britain would achieve a 5.5 per cent unemployment rate this year but at present there was no room for supply side tax reductions in the UK although they might be possible in West Germany.

In recent days senior American officials, including the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Mr Paul Volcker, the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the Commerce Secretary, Mr Baldrige, have argued for some fiscal expansion in Europe as a means of reducing imbalances in the international economy. Mr Lawson said the US view was that the "rest of the world should take up the running through the supply side."

Mr Lawson appeared to be baring his projection of a better UK economy, and an improvement in the employment picture on further cuts in American and British interest rates this year. Mr Lawson pointed out that UK rates have fallen 1.5 per cent since the budget, and he would expect further cuts during the course of this year, the Chancellor said.

Mr Lawson found it difficult to contain his disdain for American economic policies. While applauding the joint White House-Senate Republican plan to cut the fiscal deficit by \$50 billion this year and \$30 billion over the next three years, he urged the Americans to match their spending cuts with tax increases of the same order. He said if the Reagan administration was "not prepared to do that" the US deficits "were likely to be a problem for a little time to come."

Patting himself on the back, the Chancellor reminded the correspondents gathered in the British IMF director's office, that he had said that the huge US deficit would end in tears. "I think we can now see that happening," Mr Lawson was clearly pointing to the slowdown in the rate of growth in the US economy for the first quarter.

With the US dollar now dropping on the foreign exchanges, the Chancellor suggested that the flow of foreign savings into New York may make it harder for the Americans to finance their domestic deficits and this might force up interest rates in the future.

Move over dog racing, enter dog foods. GRA, the greyhound racing and property group, has sold off another of its race tracks to a supermarket group. Dee Corporation has made an £11 million offer to buy GRA's Slough stadium for a new supermarket development.

The deal is the latest in a series of moves for the once struggling GRA Group which has decided that there is more money in selling its stadiums than operating them.

Chairman Mr Isidore Kerman repeated yesterday what he said in the beginning of the month when Sainsbury offered £10.5 million for the Harringey race track. "The price is such

Booker sees off £338m Dee bid

By Mary Brasier

Booker McConnell has defeated the £338 million bid from Dee Corporation to retain its independence after a year long takeover battle with the supermarket group.

Booker has survived a Monopolies Commission inquiry which eventually approved the takeover, and two sets of bid terms from Dee, an emergence with a convincing victory yesterday.

Only 18.7 per cent of Booker shareholders decided to accept Dee's share swap terms which were increased after the MLC verdict in February to value Booker than at 260p with a 191p cash alternative, even with a near 16 per cent stake that Dee already owned the share swap failed to come near the level where it could gain control.

Booker shares plunged 20p on news of the result to stand at 248p-30p below the current value of 260p.



Mr Taylor - confident

value of the bid. Despite that, Dee is still sitting on a substantial profit after buying its shareholding at an average price of 191p a share.

The company would not say last night what its plans for the stake were. An instant decision looked unlikely as a

relaxed Dee chairman Mr Alec Monk had already deserted the City on his way to watch today's Rugby match between England and Wales.

However, after the result buyers in the stock market, believed to be close to Dee, were supporting the Booker share price which at one stage recovered 40p, lending weight to suggestions that Dee will offend its holdings.

"We would happily help them place the shares," said Booker's managing director Mr Jonathan Taylor. "We were always very confident that we would win and that a strong performance in 1984 and good prospects for 1985 would count with shareholders. We played a clean and straightforward defence."

A Dee spokesman put their defeat down to the success of Booker's profits forecasts and added: "The Booker team

now have to perform and they will not find that easy particularly with a high proportion of US earnings and a pound that is volatile."

There was a last minute flurry of excitement to the bid yesterday morning when Booker lashed out at market rumour that Dee always had a high level of acceptance under its belt ahead of the afternoon deadline. Booker called on Dee to publish the number of acceptances it had received by Thursday night and the Takeover Panel followed the move with a formal request to the bidders. Dee responded by saying it would count at only 23.7p of Booker shares at that stage.

The move was clearly designed to prevent institutional shareholders who might have been holding out until the last minute from voting for a bid which they believed had already almost succeeded.

Help agreed for debtor nations

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The IMF and World Bank yesterday re-dedicated themselves to meeting the debt crisis by reforming policies in the developing countries, but at the same time took a number of steps to ease the interest rate and financing burdens of the debtor countries over the longer term.

In their final communiqué, finance ministers on the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee formally endorsed the concept of multi-year rescheduling of loans for countries which keep within their fund targets. It was announced that Ecuador had been recommended for such a package, which would lower its interest rates and financing burdens.

For the poorest countries the Interim Committee has agreed to look at the possibility of using the so-called trust fund - consisting of loans accumulated from surplus countries - for providing assistance to the low-income developing countries - such as those of sub-Saharan Africa.

In parallel move the World Bank yesterday unveiled its long-awaited "future of the bank study" which details a number of changes in the bank's role and structure, and which the bank intends to put into effect by the end of the year.

Britoil also acquires a stake in the oil discovery at Horadene in Hampshire and the gas and oil field in Surrey. Up to now, Britoil, onshore interests in this country have been confined to a block

Investment lift off after flat year

By our Economics Staff

Industrial and commercial companies' investment rose by 18.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1984 after a year in which it remained flat.

The Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation of industrial and commercial companies, which represents about a third of total investment in the economy, was £5.3 billion in the fourth quarter compared with £4.5 billion in the third.

The rise between 1983 and 1984 was 18.5 per cent to £18,361 million though average prices in the economy rose by 4.5 per cent. The spurt in the

fourth quarter suggests that some companies may have been stimulated by the measures announced in the 1984 budget to phase out full tax allowances for investment.

Separate CBO figures yesterday showed that financial institutions like building societies, pension funds and life offices (but excluding banks) received £9.8 billion in the fourth quarter.

The pattern of investment in the changed markedly with £3.1 billion into Government bonds, and £1.2 billion into shares but only £23 million into overseas shares giving a total of £100 million for the year compared with £2.8 billion in 1983.

Britoil goes ashore

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

Britoil yesterday announced a big expansion of its onshore oil business when it disclosed that it had bought Hadson Petroleum International's British interests for £27 million.

The deal gives Britoil a stake of between 5 and 16.25 per cent in 23 onshore licence areas, including the one which takes in Hombly Grove, the Hampshire oilfield which was given the production go-ahead earlier this year.

Britoil also acquires a stake in the oil discovery at Horadene in Hampshire and the gas and oil field in Surrey. Up to now, Britoil, onshore interests in this country have been confined to a block

Two years of 'inertia' predicted

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

A further two years of recession in the construction and building industry is forecast today by the National Council of Building Materials Producers.

The council says the outlook is for two years of "inertia" in 1985 and 1986 but that prospects for 1987 are slightly better.

Although the council's forecasting team does not project the likely rate of employment in the industry it is clear that their two-year glimpse into the future points to further job losses in an industry which has suffered very badly in the past few years.

The council foresees a sharp reduction in work on industrial buildings in 1986 as tax allowances are phased out and public and private housing output is expected to turn downwards in 1985 and 1986.

Measured in constant money terms, the council is forecasting a 6 per cent fall in the value of new housing work this year and a further 21 per cent drop in 1986.

Overall, the council foresees total construction industry output declining by 3 per cent in 1985, a standstill in 1986 and a 31 per cent upturn for 1987.

Meanwhile, the Government has again been urged to step up public sector spending on essential infrastructure.

Frank Gibb, president of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, said last night that investment was necessary to improve business efficiency.

Pineapple shares sold

Mr Norris Masters, the estranged husband of Debbie Moore, Businesswoman of the Year, has sold 300,000 of his shares in her Pineapple Dance Studios Company to Mr Michael Ashcroft's Midessa (Bermuda). This company now holds a 27.64 per cent stake in Pineapple but Mr Ashcroft has

told Debbie Moore that he does not intend to buy any more and may "under appropriate conditions" reduce the shareholding to its former size. The news lifted Pineapple's shares 7p to 73p. Mr Masters, who recently resigned from the group to follow his own business affairs, is holding on to 200,000 shares (9.45 per cent).

GRA backs £11m chance

By Mary Brasier

Move over dog racing, enter dog foods. GRA, the greyhound racing and property group, has sold off another of its race tracks to a supermarket group. Dee Corporation has made an £11 million offer to buy GRA's Slough stadium for a new supermarket development.

The deal is the latest in a series of moves for the once struggling GRA Group which has decided that there is more money in selling its stadiums than operating them.

Chairman Mr Isidore Kerman repeated yesterday what he said in the beginning of the month when Sainsbury offered £10.5 million for the Harringey race track. "The price is such

that the retention of Slough stadium for greyhound racing cannot be justified."

Both deals depend on planning permission being granted for building a retail store, and there have been problems at Slough, where planners have said they would rather see the town centre developed than a sanction edge of town schemes. Asda had permission refused for an out-of-town superstore.

Dee, which has already paid £35,000 to GRA, will hand over another £1.1 million if planning permission is granted, and the rest of the purchase price when the store is completed. The book value of the land and buildings at Slough is just £1.119 million.

White City stadium recently and is trying to win planning permission to redevelop part of the Wimbledon stadium. It says it will reinvest the money in existing stadiums and may also look at buying new ones. Slough contributed £160,000 to GRA's profits last year, which fell from £395,000 to £277,000 after a drop in turnover to £10.8 million.

Mr Kerman, paying no dividend again on last year's figures, said that the first five months of the 1985 results had been overshadowed by the miners' strike and winter weather which kept the punters at home, but indicated that GRA should reach the finishing line this year with a better result.

Hongkong Bank

announces that on and after
19th April, 1985
the following annual rates will apply

Base Rate . . . 12½% (Previously 13%)
Deposit Rate (basic) 9½% Gross (Previously 10%)

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The British Bank of the Middle East
Wardley London Limited

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Any number with the right bank account, the right computer and the right electronic bits and pieces can play. But is home banking a boon or just a passing fad? Lindsay Cook, Victor Keegan and Gareth Parry (next page) key in their code words to find out.

Late night money programmes

AS the News at Ten draws to a close, or a gory horror movie comes to its blood-curdling climax, some people feel an insatiable desire to check how much money they have in the bank or building society.

The Nottingham Building Society, whose first Homelink terminals were issued in February 1983, finds that someone somewhere wants to talk to the computer at five minute intervals throughout the night. Even on Christmas day the lines are busy, but the peak time on ordinary weekdays is early evening and after a full business day the lines are busy.

The system, which is run in conjunction with the Bank of Scotland, is most popular for paying regular bills such as gas, electricity, credit card, rates and even mortgage payments to either building societies. And it is the precision of these payments which the customers particularly like. They can sit down at any time of the day or night and program a whole series of bills to be paid on any days that they choose.

There are snags. For most home banking you need either a hefty deposit or enough hard cash to pay for the electronic hardware. But once you have paid the price of entry, much more convenient free banking is available, and there are benefits from extra interest. Savings can stay in a savings account longer and free banking on a current account is easier to achieve.

Mike Fitzsimons, assistant general manager (marketing) at the Nottingham Building Society, is anxious to build a club atmosphere for home-link members, even though they are sprinkled throughout the country with a fair number in the Orkneys, Shetland Isles and Ulster. In addition to keeping tabs on their money the customers can bank holidays, buy wine, go teleshopping or invest in the stock market.

And when customers are working out the merits of extending their own home or moving house, the computer terminal is there to answer all their questions about the cost of adding several thousand pounds to the mortgage.

Once the customers have all the information they need

an application can be made via the computer screen at any time. The society guarantees an answer within three hours. Then all the customer has to do is press a button. If the requested loan is allowed, it can be sent directly to the customer's home, or to wherever he or she requests the payment to be made.

When the scheme was launched the society was inundated with inquiries, even though an investment of £10,000 was then needed. Now an initial investment of £1,000 is required, although those who place £4,000 with the Nottingham Building Society get free use of the home deck console. There's a weekly loan fee for those with savings below this figure, ranging from 20p to £1.30. Some home computers can also be linked to the system via a conversion kit.

Using the system involves local telephone calls in most places, and the Nottingham Building Society estimates that for 1984 a year a customer could save the service approximately 10 times a week.

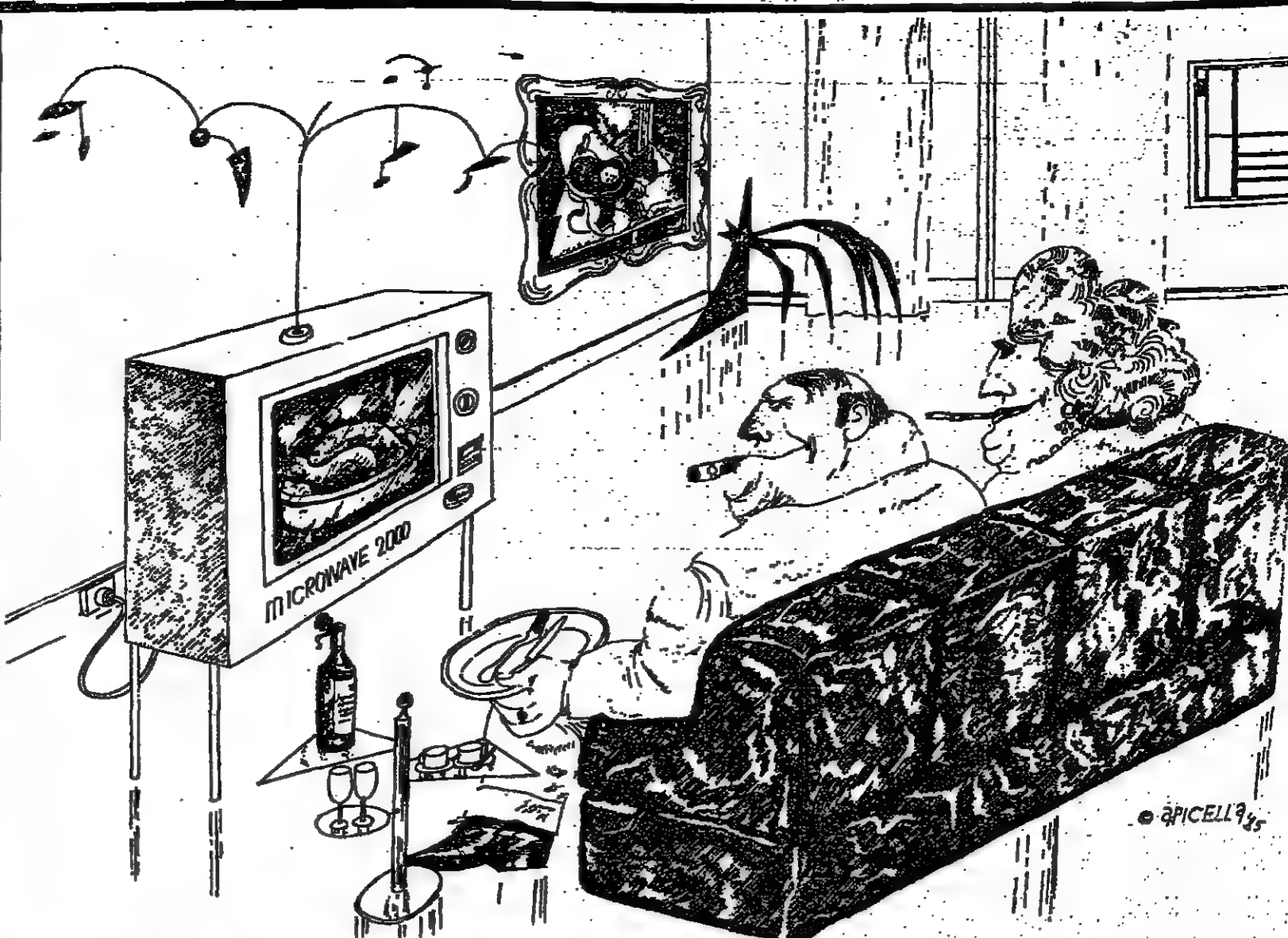
It is estimated that there are in the region of 10,000 home bankers in Britain but many experiments are being carried out in the banking world to investigate the merits of launching further schemes.

The Midland Bank started a trial with 1,000 customers in September 1983 and extended it for another year last autumn. Much more limited than the Nottingham scheme, the Midland system allows customers with Viewdata equipment to see their bank statements, get a credit balance, order cheque books, check interest rates, transfer funds from one account to another and locate the nearest subbranch.

The Trustee Savings Bank is about to develop its own package. This could either be based on telephone lines or via cable television companies.

Barclays Bank has a home banking experiment for staff, but has not released any information about it. Lloyds, National Westminster and Williams and Glyn's are all watching developments although they have no particular plans for home banking at the moment.

Lindsay Cook



'There's no way of sending fivers down a phoneline'

HOME banking is the latest phase of a long term trend in which the TV set (with its burgeoning electronic attachments) is becoming a centre not just for entertainment, but for education and work as well. In a way home banking doesn't fit the normal pattern. If you use a computer linked to a screen for playing chess, learning French or doing company accounts you are doing something you could not easily do otherwise without someone else helping you, or at least using greater resources.

Home banking, at least at its present stage, merely does in a gee whizz way what could equally well be done by a letter or telephone call to your bank. From the Bank of Scotland's point of view, it is a marvellous idea. As a bank without any sizeable branch network in England and Wales it enables it to reach the punters without financing expensive buildings in every major high street.

But what is it for the customer? It obviously does not enable you to draw cash at home, since there is no known way of sending fivers down the phoneline to your television set. Nor will it enable you to put cash into your account. For these transactions it is still necessary to

potter down to the nearest hole in the wall or send money by post to be put into your account.

What it does enable you to do is to have several different accounts which you can call up to your screen until late at night. If you have a current and an investment account you can view them both at the same time (including sums which may be in transit between the two) and switch money between them at the touch of a few keys. Thus if you suddenly find you have spent too much on a shopping spree you can transfer the requisite amount from investment to current account.

You can also get an overdraft, though at 5 per cent over Bank of Scotland base rate it is not cheap. You might do better by negotiating something slightly cheaper with the manager of your current bank. You can also pay regular bills like gas and electricity, or standing orders by typing in the appropriate instructions.

When I transferred £100 from my investment account after a few days (where it had already earned 0.35p interest) to my current account it took several days for the money to travel the required two

inches up the screen from account to account. Presumably it is all processed manually at the other end of the wire. In theory it would have been equally easy (and maybe as quick) to have phoned my bank or sent an overnight letter to do the same thing. But most people don't work like that.

There would be a greater advantage if you had your salary paid directly into your investment account, leaving you to feed it through to your current account as bills need to be paid. This would make it more of a so called Super-Now account - effectively a high interest paying current account.

At the beginning of April the Bank of Scotland were paying 10½ per cent (before composite tax had been deducted) on savings up to £1,000. This rises to 12½ per cent on amounts over £2,500. For amounts up to £1,000 it compares not unfavourably with building societies (around 7.75 per cent, tax already paid) though behind the National Savings Investment Account which now pays 12.75 per cent gross.

In addition you have to pay the B of S monthly subscription fee, a transaction charge for debits if your current account is not in credit, the cost

of the telephone call to the computer (only a local call for 96 per cent of subscribers) plus the subscription to Prestel, though that, of course, enables you to use the myriad Prestel facilities as well. In addition there are the computer time charges, except during off peak times.

All this is important because once the (considerable) gee whizzery has faded away the service will sell ultimately on convenience and price. And in the long run if the Bank of Scotland is leapfrogging over the cost of maintaining branch networks (which the other clearing banks keep complaining are expensive) then one would expect that saving to be reflected in the cost of credit. They are, after all, using our front rooms instead of space in their branch networks.

How easy is it to operate? If you already have a home computer like a BBC then it is relatively painless. But the computer must have a modem or acoustic coupler which connects the computer to the telephone system and also the necessary software, giving the computer instructions how to use the modem (and costing anything from £50 to several hundred pounds depending on sophistication).

You will also need membership of the Prestel system

under which British Telecom make available hundreds of thousands of "electronic" pages.

The only bother is that in order to reach your bank statement you have to key in no less than four separate codes: two (identity and secret password) to get into the Prestel system and two more (identity and password) to call up the Bank of Scotland's section of the Prestel pages. Only then will the computer allow you through its electronic door and into your own overdraft. You might just find it quicker to pop a letter in the post to your bank.

One final point. If you use electronic banking merely as a fun second bank then it may become a peripheral activity once the novelty has worn off. If you decide to use it as your main bank and have your salary paid into it then it would inevitably become more central. And since the Bank of Scotland support kit also includes two plastic cards (Visa plus a cash card) it can provide nearly all of the usual banking services.

But to make it all successful the B of S must overcome one of the ingrained inertias of life: getting a Briton to change his bank.

Victor Keegan

IN BRIEF

Caught in the pension trap

THE half test, the iniquitous ruling that has prevented many women from being paid a pension even though they had paid National Insurance contributions for years, is to be abolished.

Some 25,000 women are affected and in 1985/86 the Government will pay out an additional £25 millions in benefits. Weekend Money highlighted the scandal on June 9 last year when the Consumers' Association launched a campaign to give these women their rightful pension.

But the Government has been prompted to make a change to the Social Security Bill less through the justice of the argument than a directive from the EEC. The European Communities' Equal Treatment Directive came into effect last December and the extra payments will consequently be made from December 32, 1984.

Those who will gain most are women who worked for a long time before they married and then married comparatively late in life. This happened quite commonly during the last world war.

The women caught in the trap reached 60 before April 6, 1979 and had to wait until their husbands reached 65 before claiming a pension on his contributions.

Anyone who has been losing her pension rights, until now should contact her local social security offices to make sure she is compensated.

Difficult sum

READERS who had difficulty working out the mortgage repayment formula published on March 30 will find the calculation works if they insert parentheses around it. Unfortunately these were omitted.

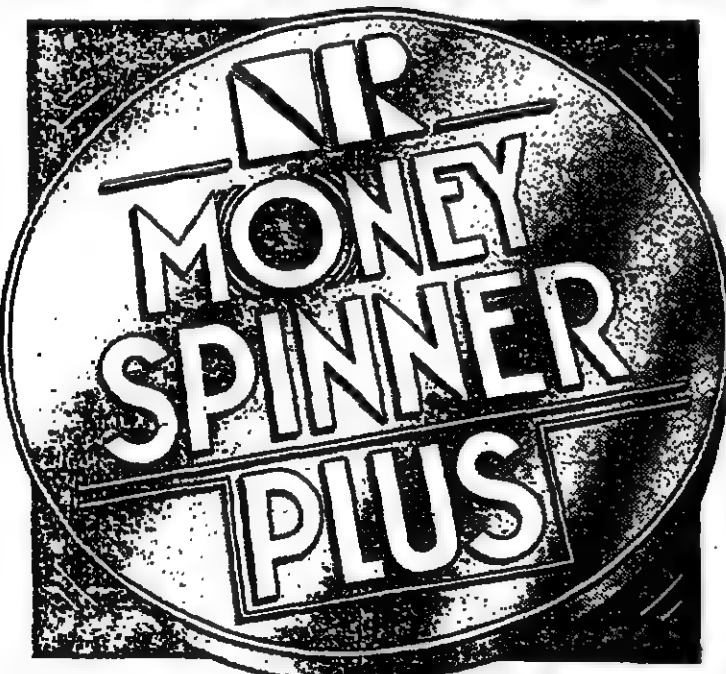
Anyone who still finds working out the monthly mortgage repayments too much of a chore can take an easier way out. The Building Societies Association produces repayment tables showing the exact amount you should be paying, working in 0.5 per cent stages. They cost £1.50 from the BSA, at 3 Saville Row, London W1X 1AF.

Star bargain

MORTGAGE bargain of the moment is an offer from Eagle Star Insurance Company. While building societies are charging 14 per cent to 15 per cent, Eagle Star asks only 11.5 per cent regardless of size of the loan.

The drawback is that the company only offers non profit endorsement mortgages, since this is the business they want to encourage. They will, however, consider remortgaging for any purpose except taking a quick profit out of your house.

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Ask for details of maximum investment. Interest is paid annually in October or you can receive it as monthly income.

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PA*	GROSS PA*
£500 or more	9.75%	13.93%
£5,000 or more	10.00%	14.23%
£20,000 or more	10.25%	14.64%

*The new money rate. The interest rate for best rate investors.

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Scottish Office: 27 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DN. Telephone: 031-226 3401.

1984. A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE WIDOWS.

The Viscount of Arundell, DSC reporting as Chairman of Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society.

BONUS DECLARATION

The rates of reversionary bonus declared for 1984 are at the same record levels as for 1983, 5.50% on existing sums assured and vested bonus for ordinary with profits policies and 6.40% for with profits policies in our pension fund. Terminal bonus rates have been substantially increased, as have cash bonuses for with profit group pension schemes.

What we still do not consider satisfactory is the basis which life offices use for their new business quotations, using current interim bonus rates and showing terminal bonus based on current rates. We shall be much happier when industry-wide agreement is reached on a basis for producing quotations which are not extravagant and over-optimistic.

INTEREST ON CLAIMS

For many years the Society has paid interest if payment is made more than one month after the date the death claim became payable. We have announced a further improvement in that the interest calculation will in future cover the first month as well.

INVESTMENT

Of the £134M available for investment by the Society in 1984 plus

£122M realised from net sales of equities, £100M was invested in fixed interest securities, £28M in index-linked stocks and £34M in property, while deposits increased by £94M.

Pensions Management (SWF) Ltd generated a figure of £252M to be invested compared with £133M in 1983.

PENSIONS

The first enquiry chaired by the Secretary of State for Social Services into 'personal portable pensions', now referred to as 'personal pensions', resulted in a consultative document which left much unresolved, and we are still waiting for the results of the wide-ranging main inquiry.

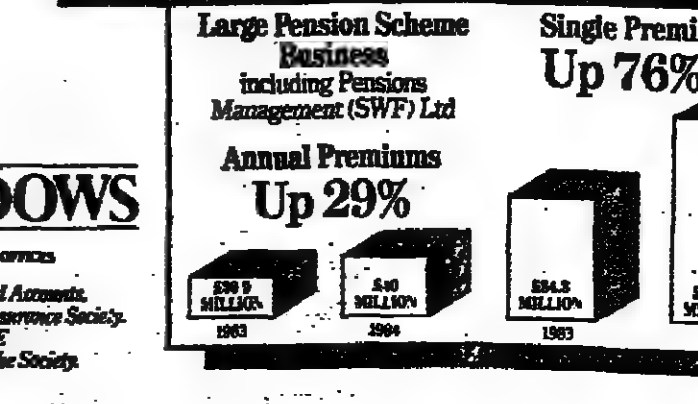
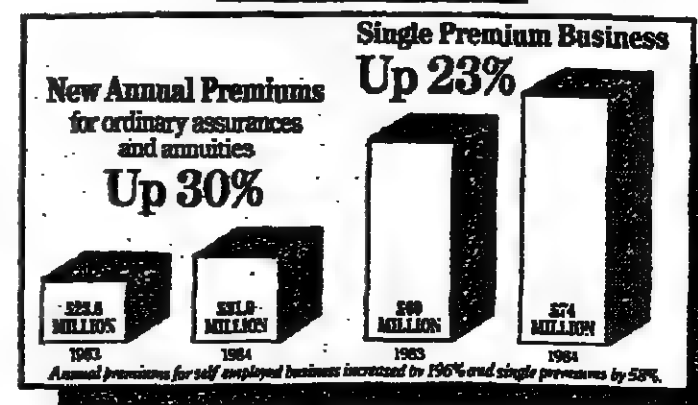
We welcomed the recognition in the consultative document that the arrangements for members of pension schemes to opt out of final salary schemes should be introduced on a

basis that would not threaten the stability of such schemes. We are however still concerned that members who do exercise the option will not make enough provision for their retirement at an early enough stage, and may make a decision without a full understanding of what is really a very complicated choice, perhaps without fully appreciating the implications for themselves and their dependants.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Society has taken advantage of market opportunities over the past few years and has improved its new business performance as a result. We have a wide range of excellent contracts, we continue to give first class returns to our policyholders and we have an enthusiastic and hard working staff, so we are confident of continuing to increase our share of the market.

NEW BUSINESS RESULTS



SCOTTISH WIDOWS

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES LIFE OFFICES
If you would like a copy of the 1984 Report and Accounts, please write to Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH16 0NE or ask your Inspector or your local Branch of the Society.

1520 من الراجل

Keying in all those code numbers: picture of Gareth Parry by Martin A. Lee

'I imagined my little money bag wrestling for access with a tartan-kilted robot. Imagined? I was right'

MY BANK, one of the Big Five, had recently managed to cancel a standing order by mistake, leaving me quite unwittingly, without fire or burglary insurance cover for months. This was not a unique happening, and I'd been wanting to change my account for some time. I'd considered the small one-branch bank in London, where the Queen has an account. But then again, I didn't fancy getting her standing order payments debited to me by mistake either. Along came the bank of Scotland's huge Home Banking advertising campaign which promised a Friend For Life, together with the most attractive prospect of never really having to go into a bank again, and queue in those roped corridors, to pay the gas bill, and Barclaycard. Moreover, I've a fascination for computers, much as I have for the Black Mamba at London Zoo. Lovingly but frighteningly, within days, I had signed on with the Bank of Scotland,



But within days they had sent me someone else's cheque book. I could have thrown myself off the top of the Nat West's tower block, had they not been so apologetic. But then again, I subscribe to the cock-up theory, sometimes called Sod's Law. Bank of Scotland's home banking is not cheap; there's the 25p for the Prestel adaptor, plus the 250 annual Prestel fee plus the 250 a year for Home Banking. I suspect it will be difficult to justify these amounts in terms of saved 17 pence postage stamps, but the promise of complete control over one's money, together with the time saved in queuing will, I hope, prove valuable. The blue Prestel adaptor arrived, by security courier, very quickly. Nervously, I plugged my little friend out of its polyurethane casing that morning. I prepared for sunset when the new creature would, like Dracula, be given life. Connecting the adaptor into

the aerial socket of my TV and the telephone socket presented a snag I hadn't really anticipated. Once the home banking machine was set up, I was of course cut off from TV reception, but much more importantly, all incoming telephone calls were blocked. British Telecom's answer was to offer to install an additional telephone jack socket PST 650 at a cost of £28. However, a far better and cheaper solution, which British Telecom didn't mention, is as long as your telephone socket is not in a free-standing hallway, to pay £3.95 for BT's own Phone Socket Doubler (Item Code 37 4680). Nevertheless, I found Prestel fascinating — all that information plus plane departures to Belfast, and no doubt, Bogota. Although some information providers charge a couple of pence for their computer coupler switch, £2.95 from any Argos catalogue showroom. I just wish the Bank or Prestel could have devoted two lines in their abundant promotional literature advising this.

Money on the move

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

MY wife and I have about £3,000 at present in a building society account. It has been suggested to us that we would benefit more if this money were invested elsewhere. I shall retire soon and expect to receive a pension and a lump sum of some £20,000. However, I expect to take another job and still earn a reasonable income for at least five years; my wife also works. What would be the best investment for the lump sum? I'd like to invest both this and the capital we have where income would be optimised, but I don't want to have to change at interest rate changes. — W. G. H., Bristol

Going for growth

COULD you advise me of the most appropriate method of investing my total capital of about £20,000. As a higher rate taxpayer, building societies do not seem very attractive. I am looking for capital growth rather than high interest. I need about £3,000 every three years for my replacement purposes. Also, up to now, I have moved home every four or five years, and need access to capital on these unplanned occasions. — T. M. S., Northamptonshire

ASSUMING the £3,000 is in a high interest, fixed term type of account, you would probably do as well to leave it where it is (remembering, of course, to put some aside for emergencies). The £20,000 is a different kettle of fish. I think you would be ill-advised to put all this money into an interest-bearing deposit type investment. You seem to have adequate income for your needs already, at least for the next few years, so what you need is some capital growth to

BUY your maximum allowance (£25,000 in 30th Issue National Savings Certificate) which are tax free, but be prepared to leave them untouched for five years to get the full interest. Put the rest of your money into a spread of unit trusts designed for growth. You can sell units to get the cash you need at a few days' notice, but bear in mind that £3,000 every three years plus the considerable expense of constant house moves will eat into your savings very fast.

YOUR SAVINGS

	* Interest rate	* Gross rate (after tax)	Tax	* Min.
BANKS				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
TRUSTED SAVINGS BANK				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES (NSCs)				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
INDEX-LINKED CERTIFICATES				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
YEARLY PLAN				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
LOCAL AUTHORITIES				
Overnight	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Current	7.25	10.10	7.10	10 pence
Fixed term 1 month	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 months	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 1 year	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 2 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 3 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 4 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 5 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 6 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 7 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 8 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 9 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence
Fixed term 10 years	8.50	12.35	9.35	10 pence

Ever tried claiming tax relief on a burglar alarm? It can be done

Margaret Dibben goes through the small print of the latest guide from the Inland Revenue

counted) fears that the abolition of this tax relief could form part of the next Labour party manifesto. Mrs Thatcher is a powerful advocate of the benefit and has sworn that it is safe in her hands, at least at the present £20,000 limit, for the lifetime of this Government. Tax relief on interest payments is available on money borrowed to buy your own house, or to improve it. But a revised booklet from the Inland Revenue (No. 12.11) itemises many additional circumstances which also warrant relief. Specifically under the home improvements category, it goes further than the

simple loft conversion or central heating installation. Indeed, if you are switching energy sources, perhaps from oil to gas, you are entitled to tax relief on the interest you pay on a loan to do the work even though you may already have central heating. You cannot, however, claim on either portable radiators or on night storage radiators that are not permanently fixed. Large building work, as you might reasonably guess, qualifies for relief on interest payments. Installing solar heating double-glazing, even though it may be detachable

replacing windows and doors insulating roof and walls. Installing a bathroom connection to main drainage a new roof conversion to flats underpinning rebuilding a facade inserting or renewing a damp proof course dry and wet rot treatment replacing electrical installations, including rewiring. (but not plugs). And this is only the start. General improvements and beautification of your home that can qualify for relief

include putting in new kitchen and bedroom units if they become a fixed part of the building. (but note that cookers, refrigerators and the like do not qualify) erecting garages, garden sheds, greenhouses and fences, laying down driveways and paths. Still out in the garden, putting down a patio, constructing a swimming pool and landscaping the garden do qualify although you will have to negotiate just how extensive the replanting need be to be termed landscaping. On the outside of the house, extensive replacement of gutters, extensive repointing, pebble dashing, texture coat-

ing or stone cladding: all qualify, although painting on its own is excluded. Then, there are the items you may really not have thought about, things like installing water softening equipment (as long as this becomes a permanent part of the plumbing system) or even installing fire and burglar alarms. The Inland Revenue does not guarantee that you will be granted tax relief under any of these particular headings — your case depends on the extent of work being done — but if tax relief is crucial to your budgeting, ask your Inspector of Taxes first.

From today, the current account which pays high interest

Now there's a new, more effective way to manage both your everyday money and your savings — the Classic High Interest Bank Account with Robert Fleming, Bankers.

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*These rates of interest vary with market conditions. On 18th April 1985, the applied net rate was 9.27% for a basic-rate taxpayer that is equivalent to 12.35% of the gross rate. The applied gross rate was 13.87% for a higher-rate taxpayer that is equivalent to 13.87% of the gross rate. The gross rate is 13.87%.

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To: Peter Peases, HIBA Administration Centre, FIDELITY BUILDING, 28 Western Road, Romford RM1 1BL. Telephone: 0708-689866

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If you would like further information and a copy of the Terms and Conditions before applying for your Classic High Interest Bank Account, please tick this box.

Full name(s) (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

Address _____

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Telephone No. (Home) _____ (Business) _____

Existing Save & Prosper Acc. No. (if any) _____

Signature(s) _____

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SAVE & PROSPER

Three detailed botanical line drawings of plants with berries. The leftmost plant, *Skimmia japonica*, features a dense cluster of large, dark, glossy leaves with prominent veins and small, round berries. The middle plant, *Aucuba japonica*, shows a branch with several large, dark, glossy leaves and clusters of small, round berries. The rightmost plant, *Ligustrum vulp.*, depicts a branch with several large, dark, glossy leaves and a large, dense cluster of small, round berries.

Christopher Lloyd suggests some favourite evergreens, where to plant them, and how to care for them. Drawing by Sharon Finmark

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COSTS AND LIMITS

Odd jobbing.

by Hilary Applegate

BRIGHT YELLOW forsythias and delicate pink flowering currants are a delightful if fairly common combination in April. Immediately after flowering, however, it's time to reach for the secateurs. Both plants produce their

As daffodils and early tulips fade, remove the flowerheads so that energy is concentrated into bulb rather than seed production. Throughout spring and summer, keep an eye on the moisture content of your soil; newly emerged seedlings and recently transplanted vegetables, trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants will all need watering in times of drought.

DUMP TRUCK
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Water or sand ballasted, weighs 4000lb.

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Sweeps up leaves and cuttings as you drive.

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The British made Westwood Garden Tractor cuts big lawns beautifully-- in fact, as well as the best rotary lawnmowers it deals with paddocks and orchards with equal dexterity. And it cuts out work-- your mowing is done in less than half the time!

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96

HAWARD GALLERY (Arts CSE
City) South Bank, London SE1
U.K. Tel: 020 7582 1234
Wed. 10-8. Thurs-Sat 10-6. Sun
12-6. Aug 22-30! Concept-nature
of art. 01-8-96
day Mon.- Tues. & Wed. 6-
9pm. Recorded info. 01-8-
96

NATE GALLERY, Millbank, SW
U.K. Tel: 020 7582 1234
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DEACON: sculpture. Until Jun
Suns. 2-5.50. Recorded info. 0
21-12-96

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM
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Tel: 020 7942 2000
wkdays 10-5.50. nans. 2.50
5.50. Closed Fridays. Recorded
info. 01-8-96

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PLS OF THE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

CAST: Gray: D. Gray; F. Gray: Storm; Thorpe: J. Thorpe

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little you
age us on
832 7200.

3 Orange St. Wales

Altachonera **Latr.** **2**
A.

Continues on page 25

More Entertainments appear on page 7

Selling your house privately through The Guardian need not cost you a fortune. Discover just how little you need to pay, 'phone us 01-278 2332 or 061-832 7222

YOU CAN SELL IT IN THE

GUARDIAN

Personal continues on page 25

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هكذا من المرحل

BBC-1

- 7 10.5 25 am Open University. 3 30 The Saturday Picture Show. 5 Film: Dr. Who and the Daleks (1965). With Peter Cushing. 12 27 pm Weather, news.
- 12 30 GRANDSTAND. Including: Football Focus (12 35); News (1 5); snooker — World Pro Championship from Sheffield (1 10: 1 50); racing from Newbury (1 40: 2 10: 2 40); Badminton Horse Trials (2 20: 4 20); Rugby Union — Wales v England. Live from Cardiff Arms Park (2 50); final score (4 42).
- 5 5 NEWS: Weather News; sport; regional news.
- 5 20 THE NEW ADVENTURES OF WONDER-WOMAN: The Bermuda Triangle Crisis. Lynda Carter as the masked Amazon in another old earth-saving exploit. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 6 10 TERRY AND JUNE. T. Scott, J. Whitefield as the sitcom suburbanites, in a re-run of the one where Charlie's funeral turns into a fiasco. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 6 40 11 HARROWHOUSE. Made in 1974. Avram Avakian's tolerably amusing if confusing spoof on jewel heist movies, casts Charles Grodin as a young diamond salesman enlisted by bent millionaire Trevor Howard to rob the world's diamond clearing house. With Candice Bergen and underemployed John Gielgud, James Mason. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 8 10 THE KENNY EVERETT TELEVISION SHOW. Merciless micky-taking from Ken and his one-man repertory company, plus Frank Thornton, Lionel Blair, The Flying Pickets.
- 8 40 DYNASTY: The Trial. Will Steven be rotten enough to shop his Mum, with her having lost everything that matters — like her freedom, her daughter, her make-up kit...? Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 9 30 NEWS: sport; Weather News.
- 9 45 MATCH OF THE DAY. Jimmy Hill with the soccer highlights of Canon League First and Second Division matches.
- 10 25 THE UNION FIELD. Powerful 1979 version of ex-cop Joseph Wambaugh's true story about the murder of a Los Angeles policeman by a psychotic killer (James Woods) and the subsequent effect on the dead man's guilt-ridden partner (John Savage).
- 12 40 Weather: close.

BBC-2

- 6 25 am Open University.
- 3 10 MAN OF LA MANCHA. The hit stage musical of Don Quixote successfully translated to the screen in 1972, with Peter O'Toole titling wildly at the dual role of Cervantes and his hero, and much manifold plodding by the likes of Sophia Loren, James Coco, Brian Blessed, Ian Richardson.
- 5 15 BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS. Further coverage (see also Grandstand) on the cross-country phase of the celebrated equestrian meet.
- 6 8 WORLD SNOOKER. More second-round action from Sheffield, as the World Championship enters the second week.
- 6 40 THE DAY THE UNIVERSE CHANGED. Infinitely Reasonable. Another showing for last Tuesday's programme in James Burke's idiosyncratic odyssey, in which our Man in the Green Corduroy Suit tells how an astronomical discovery turned poor old Aristotle into an also-ran.
- 7 30 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 7 50 RUGBY SPECIAL. Nigel Starmer-Smith with a rugged double bill, featuring highlights of this afternoon's Wales v England international, plus action from the Ulster Cup Final, from Ravenhill.
- 8 40 WORLD SNOOKER. Further coverage.
- 9 30 DOMENICO SCARLATTI: His Music And His World 1685-1757. The year's third big musical centenary is marked with this documentary, written and narrated by David Thompson, which traces the Naples-born Scarlatti's career as composer to three courts and as maestro di cappella at St Peter's in Rome — the period during which he composed the Stabat Mater. Colombian maestro Rafael Puyana plays some of Scarlatti's 550 sonatas for harpsichord, on contemporary instruments — including the composer's own.
- 11 25 WORLD SNOOKER. Highlights of the second-round matches due to be completed this evening. 1 5 Close.

ITV London

- 6 15 am Good Morning Britain. 3 30 The Wide Awake Club. 9 25 LWT Information. 9 30 Strawberry Shortcake. 10 0 No 73. 11 20 The Fall Guy.
- 12 15 WORLD OF SPORT. Including: canoeing from North Wales (12 20); news (12 45); On The Ball (12 50); racing from Ayr and Thirsk (1 20); speedway — England v Denmark from Coventry (3 10: 4 0); half-time round-up (3 45); wrestling (4 15); results (4 45).
- 5 0 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 5 15 DAVID SPOT PRESENTS THE SIXTH GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS SPECIAL. More freaks and feats, including Evel Knievel and the world's heaviest twins, in a repeated mind-boggler.
- 6 0 THE SATURDAY 6 O'CLOCK SHOW. Can Michael Aspel be any consolation for bereft Michael Redford fans. A new live, Saturday version of the Friday magazine, featuring the first-ever beneficiary of Ernie, and comic Gary Wilmot.
- 6 45 THE GRUMBLEWEEDS RADIO SHOW. High-speed humour with the comedy quintet.
- 7 15 THE PRICE IS RIGHT. Leslie Crowther with the playing-to-the-gallery game show.
- 8 15 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 8 20 TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED: The Man From The South. A repeat series of twist-ending dramas starts with the classic Roald Dahl chiller about a bet with a bizarre and scary stake. With Josep Maria Juncosa, Pamela Stephenson.
- 9 0 NIGHTKILL. Former Charlie's Angel Jacqui Smith leads this 1981 thriller showing under the Murder, Mystery Suspense umbrella as an unfaithful wife plotting to kill her tycoon husband. With Robert Mitchum as the investigating cop, plus James Franciscus, Mike Connors. Oracle sub-titles. London news headlines.
- 10 45 AUF WIEDERSEHEN, PET: The Lovers. Still ITV's best Saturday offering. Oracle sub-titles.
- 11 45 MAGNUM: By Its Cover. Tom Selleck as the Hawaiian private eye.
- 12 40 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Matheroo. Krishnamurti. Closedown.

Channel 4

- 1 0 pm Black and White and Read All Over. 1 25 Enthusiasts: Ken Jones — Seal Doctor; sub-titles. 1 55 Film: Ceiling Zero. 1935 flying drama with James Cagney, Pat O'Brien. 3 45 Film: The Last Flight. 1931 drama about ex-WWI pilots, with Richard Barthelmess, John Mac Brown. 5 5 Brookside Omnibus.
- 6 0 THE MAX HEADROOM SHOW. The Coteau Twins, Joe Jackson and The Police.
- 6 30 NO PROBLEM! More Roots. More re-run comedy with the young black Londoners.
- 7 0 7 DAYS. Exploration of the case of Anne Maguire, just released after serving 9 years of a 14-year sentence for IRA bombings, who is still protesting her innocence.
- 7 30 UNION WORLD. Peter Allen reports on the background to the row about alleged ballot rigging in the election of Lord RUSSELL's General Secretary Ron Todd.
- 8 0 TALES FROM A LONG ROOM. 2: Medici. 3: Medici.
- 8 15 WINSTON CHURCHILL: THE WIDENESS YEARS. 2: October 1930 to March 1932.
- 9 15 DIVIDED BRITAIN. 1: The Demons of London. After their notorious MI's Official Secrets film the 2020 Vision current affairs team make a welcome return with three programmes marking the 300th anniversary of the Domesday Book with a new study of the shape of the nation. The first one looks, with the aid of computer analysis at the division within our society.
- 10 0 HILL STREET BLUES.
- 10 55 THE LATE CLIVE JAMES. The urbane Aussie returns with his up-market chat show.
- 11 40 NAKED CITY.
- 12 40 THE PAUL HOGAN SHOW. 1 5 Close.
- SAC: 1 45 pm Farming on 4. 2 15 A Question of Economics. 2 45 Royal Cyren v Looey. 4 40 Carpooling. 4 50 A Week in Politics. 5 35 Q.A.F. 6 5 Where in the World? 6 30 Champions All: Gymnastics 1985. 7 30 Newyddion. 7 45 Sion a Sian. 8 15 Portnewydd. 8 50 Can Penillion. 9 20 Y Maes Chwarae. 10 40 Hill Street Blues. 11 35 Film: The Secret of the Blue Room (1933) with Paul Lukas, Oswald Stevens, William Janney. 12 55 Diwedd.

Radio 1

- 6 0 am Mark Page. 8 0 Peter Powell. Action Trail. 10 0 Dave Lee Travis. 1 0 pm 30 Years of Rock. 2 1956. 2 30 Paul Gambaccini. 4 0 Saturday Live. 6 30 Concert: Norman Reddy and Deep Sea Divers. 8 0 Graham Bannerman. 9 30-12 0 Diddy Peach.

Radio 2

- 4 0 am Brian Ford. 6 0 George Ferguson. 8 0 David Jacobs. 10 0 Sounds of the 60s. 11 0 Album Time. 1 0 pm The News. 1 30 Sport on 2. 2 0 Folk on 2. 7 0 Jump! 7 30 Folk Concert. 9 30 Big Band Special. 10 0 Steve Mason. 12 5 am Night Owls. 1 0 Steve Madden. 3 0-4 0 Wally Whetton.

Radio 3

- 6 55 Weather: News. Aubade. 9 0 News: Record Review. Mozart. Piano Quartets K478 and 493. 10 15 Stereo Release. Mahler: Das Lied der Erde. 11 0 News. 11 30 The News. 12 0 News. 12 30 The News. 1 0 pm The News. 1 30 Sport on 2. 2 0 Folk on 2. 7 0 Jump! 7 30 Folk Concert. 9 30 Big Band Special. 10 0 Steve Mason. 12 5 am Night Owls. 1 0 Steve Madden. 3 0-4 0 Wally Whetton.

World Service

- 6 30 News: Farming Today. 6 50 Prayer for the Week. 7 0 News: Today's Papers. 7 30 On Your Farm. 7 45 In Perspective. 7 50 Down to Earth. Gardening jobs. 8 0 News: Today's Papers. 8 30 Sport on 2. 9 0 News. 9 30 Yesterday in Parliament. 9 45 News: Breakaway. 10 0 News Stand. Weeklies reviewed. 10 30 The Week in Westminster. 10 50 Pick of the Week. 11 30 From our own Correspondent. 12 0 News: Money Box. Comedy series. 12 30 News: Questions. 1 0 News: Afternoon Play. Return from Paradise by Kiyokazu Yamamoto. Clash of religious in 16th Century Japan. 2 0 News: Evening Service. Musical wit. 3 30 Three Hundred Years a Soldier. Story of 'Our Royal Regiment of Foot Guards'. 4 15 Sunday Search for Britain's best small business. 4 45 The Hazy Hood Game. Join in an overgrown rugby scrum. 5 0 Wildlife. 5 25 Sunday. Satirical revue. 6 0 News. 6 25 Desert Island Discs: Robert Burchfield, OBE editor. 7 0 Stop On The Week. Favourite tunes. 7 30 Sunday Night Theatre: Chimeria by Stephen Gallagher. Massage at an isolated fertility clinic. 10 30 The Great Peacemakers. 1 0 Science News. 11 20 On the Border. The Bodgers. Off-beat comedy. 12 0 News: weather; shipping.

Anglia

- 6 15 As London. 9 25 As London. 10 0 No 73. 10 15 As London. 10 30 As London. 10 45 As London. 11 0 As London. 11 15 As London. 11 30 As London. 11 45 As London. 12 0 As London. 12 15 As London. 12 30 As London. 12 45 As London. 1 0 As London. 1 15 As London. 1 30 As London. 1 45 As London. 2 0 As London. 2 15 As London. 2 30 As London. 2 45 As London. 3 0 As London. 3 15 As London. 3 30 As London. 3 45 As London. 4 0 As London. 4 15 As London. 4 30 As London. 4 45 As London. 5 0 As London. 5 15 As London. 5 30 As London. 5 45 As London. 6 0 As London. 6 15 As London. 6 30 As London. 6 45 As London. 7 0 As London. 7 15 As London. 7 30 As London. 7 45 As London. 8 0 As London. 8 15 As London. 8 30 As London. 8 45 As London. 9 0 As London. 9 15 As London. 9 30 As London. 9 45 As London. 10 0 As London. 10 15 As London. 10 30 As London. 10 45 As London. 11 0 As London. 11 15 As London. 11 30 As London. 11 45 As London. 12 0 As London. 12 15 As London. 12 30 As London. 12 45 As London. 1 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